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## Couple lose everything in Lismore house blaze

by David McPhee  
dmpcpee@obantimes.co.uk

Three months ago, Teenie Wilson was flying to Islay after winning a photography competition; this month, she is preparing to rebuild her life in the wake of a fire that destroyed her home.

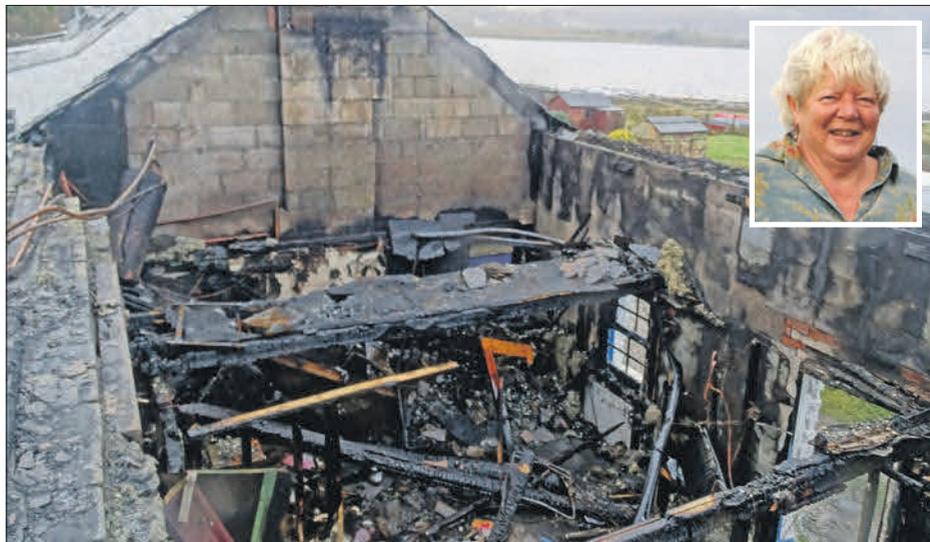
Teenie and her husband David, who run the Lismore post office and shop, were left with just 'the clothes they stood up in' after the blaze annihilated their home of 25 years as well as everything they owned.

'We have lost everything,' Teenie told The Oban Times. 'It's one of these things that you never think is going to happen to you.'

The Lismore woman recently set up a photography workshop for children on the island.

Earlier in the year, she won the Wyvex Media and Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative #myargyll photograph competition.

Teenie was left devastated after the incident last Tuesday.



Fire devastated Teenie, inset, and David Wilson's home in Port Ramsay last week.

'I saw all this smoke in the back corner of my garden,' she said. 'There was something burning close to our shed.'

'We knew it was going to catch the shed.'

'It spread into the house and before we knew it the house burned down. We don't know what started it.'

I want to thank the Lismore and Appin fire service.

'They were fabulous. They work hard and risk their lives to save your home.'

The couple were also helped by one of Teenie's neighbours.

When the fire service arrived on scene, they needed to use water from a burn that runs through the Wilson's garden.

But it wasn't deep enough so Kiki MacColl, who saw

the smoke and came to help, waded in, built a dam and stood in the water for three hours to help the firefighters.

'Her feet were blue when she came out,' said Teenie. 'She was amazing and other people helped too.'

'The support we have had from the community has been absolutely overwhelming.'

'I have been answering

messages of support for days. Everyone wants to help, but there's not much that can be done.'

'It is quite devastating when you don't have a phone, money, bank cards or a tooth-brush,' added Teenie.

'Fortunately, I was insured with the NFU, who have been fabulous.'

While the bricks and mortar will eventually be replaced, not everything can be.

'We had masses of sentimental stuff,' said Teenie.

'[But] it's just stuff. As you move on, you realise it is possessions and it could have been lives - it could have been worse.'

'It's a very strange feeling. We keep turning round to get something, but we are going to get through it.'

'We bought this ruin and did it up and we will do it up again and, with the support of the community, we will get there.'

'We have each other, a great family, we have great friends,

Continued on page four

## Police warn residents to lock doors

Police are warning people to lock up before bed after a spate of reports of door handles 'going wild' in the night.

Officers were called to a property in McKelvie Road, Oban, before midnight on Monday. The woman at the address was in bed when she heard 'the handle on the front door going wild, someone moving it up and down trying to get in', she said.

Police were at the scene within minutes but there was no-one about, said Sergeant Iain MacNicol.

There are reports on Information Oban's Facebook page of similar incidents happening at five other properties in the area behind the hospital close to McKelvie Road, one of them in Cowan Place.

Sergeant MacNicol said: 'People do go looking for opportunities, so people need to lock their doors at night and when they are in during the day.'

'The message is don't make it easy for criminals.'

CID officers are investigating a break-in at a flat in Chestnut Court, Taynuilt, around 4am on Saturday.

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## Police warning after Seil woman loses thousands in scam

Police are again reminding the public not to be taken in by unexpected telephone calls from people saying they are from BT or Microsoft after a woman from the Seil area had thousands of pounds taken from her bank account.

These types of scams continue to be carried out. Callers often say they have identified a fault with the person's computer or broadband.

The caller then persuades the person to give bank details for payment to rectify the fault or to download an application to their computer to rectify the fault. But this actually allows remote access to the computer, including access to PayPal or internet banking, meaning money can be taken from accounts.

On Monday January 7, the woman from Seil received a call from someone saying they were from BT and that

her internet service would be terminated if she did not secure her account.

The woman was persuaded to provide remote access to her computer and bank details. The caller removed several thousands of pounds from the woman's bank account.

Sergeant Iain MacNicol said: 'I would urge people not to trust unexpected callers who say they are going to help you with your broadband or computer faults. No genuine company will call you without first having a fault reported by you.'

'Do not be duped into downloading applications or giving out remote access to your computer or personal details to pay for a repair you didn't report. My advice is just to end the call.'

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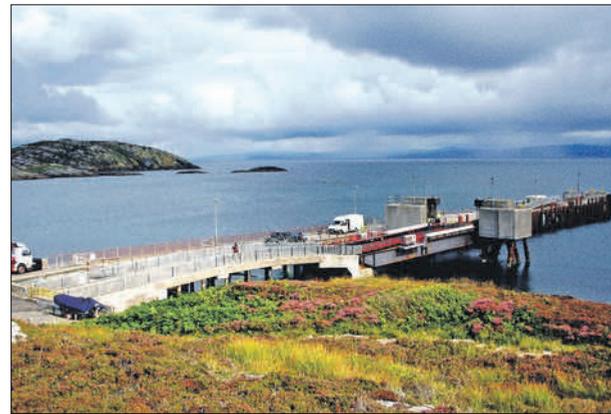
# Work to close Coll and Tarbert linkspans

The linkspans at Coll and Tarbert on Harris are to close for a few days because of findings during routine inspections.

Work to replace the wire ropes used for lifting the linkspans at Coll and Tarbert is scheduled to take place at the end of January at Coll and the end of February at Tarbert.

CMAL, which owns the harbours, has appointed a contractor to carry out the work, which will be done in stages to cause as little disruption to ferry services as possible.

The linkspan at Coll will be closed after the 12.45pm sailing on Tuesday January 22 and will re-open for the arrival of the 9.55am service on Saturday January 26, which will allow the contractor to replace the ropes on one side of the linkspan. It will then close again after the 12.45pm sailing on Monday January 28, and re-open for the arrival of the 10.15am sailing



The Coll ferry service will be disrupted on two occasions this month to allow the linkspan to be replaced.

on Thursday January 31. This will allow the replacement of the remaining ropes.

The linkspan at Tarbert, Harris, will be closed after the 4pm service on Wednesday February 27 departs and will re-open for the arrival of the 11.20am sailing on Tuesday March 5.

This will allow both sets of rope replacements to be

carried out during a single closure.

Ramsay Muirhead, head of civil engineering at Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited said: 'Following routine inspection of the linkspans at Coll and Tarbert, it was deemed the replacement of the wire lifting ropes at both harbours was required.'

'We would have preferred

to carry out the work at Coll during the already scheduled linkspan closure in October. However, for safety reasons, we have decided not to delay the replacement.

'We are working with the team at CalMac and our contractor to ensure this work is carried out with as little disturbance to services as possible.'

CalMac has advised services for foot passengers will be provided during the disruption on normal service days on both routes. However, passengers are advised an amended timetable may be in operation and are asked to refer to its website, [www.calmac.co.uk](http://www.calmac.co.uk), for details.

CalMac director of service delivery David Gibson said: 'We have tried to build services around this unavoidable disruption as best we can to minimise the impact to communities while the work is completed as quickly as is possible.'

## Liz celebrates Tesco trolley win



The winner of The Oban Times' trolley dash competition, courtesy of Oban's Tesco supermarket, is Liz Crawford from Oban.

Liz wins the chance to fill her shopping trolley with up to £200 worth of goods.

To win, she collected four tokens from The Oban Times, before being chosen at random. Speaking about the news, she said: 'I never win competitions, so I was absolutely gobsmacked.'

'I am delighted. I am

going to give something to Hope Kitchen and I have two girls, who both have families, so their families will benefit as well.'

Liz will be let loose in Tesco on Monday January 21.

## RNLI tribute to former crewman

Oban RNLI has paid respects to a former crew member who died suddenly.

The town's lifeboat station flew its flag at half mast

on Tuesday January 8 to remember David MacDonald who was part of the crew a number of years ago.

Station spokesperson Ian Fulton said: 'He was a great guy to be around. He will be missed by everyone who knew him in Oban.'



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# Heartbreak husband only wants 'sorry' from vandals

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A man whose wife's memorial bench was smashed onto Oban beach by Hogmanay pranksters said she would want him to forgive the 'idiots', not hate them.

David Hobbs said Thai-born Amnuai, whose death remains a mystery after she was found in a river near Paisley in 2014, would want him to show forgiveness despite it breaking his heart.

The bench, inscribed with words from John Lennon's song, Let It Be, and made from recycled plastic, was discovered in bits close to where it had stood, near The Oban Times slipway, on New Year's Day.

Photographs of the wrecked bench triggered a rush of Facebook offers of help and support from people around the town.

It would have taken at least two people to lift the bench up and throw it over the Esplanade railings.

Mr Hobbs, who had only been married to Amnuai for seven months after a seven-year relationship when she died, said the shock of what happened to the bench brought back 'the very worst grief' he had been struggling to cope with.

'It brought it all back. I've never got over losing Amnuai but I've tried to keep going,' he said. 'I still don't know to this day what happened to her ending up in the water where she was found.'

'This incident with the



David Hobbs on the repaired bench, which was in memory of his late wife Amnuai, above.

bench has been like losing her all over again, but it's also made me realise just how much people here in Oban care. There's only a few bad apples who spoil things but you get them in every town and city.'

Police have been informed and are looking at CCTV to try to identify who did it, said Mr Hobbs.

He continued: 'Amnuai was not a hateful person. She didn't have a bad bone in her body. She would not want me to hate who did this but it's still hard for me to forgive them, even though that's what she would want.'

'With the bench now back, I'd like them to do something nice to show they are sorry - maybe a bunch of flowers. I want them to realise the terrible upset they have caused from being idiots and what

might have just been a daft prank to them,' he added.

Amnuai was best known in Oban as the caretaker of the council-run toilets. She used to go to the slipway to take her lunch breaks and enjoy the view. 'That's why I put the bench there because she liked that spot,' said Mr Hobbs.

The bench has now been moved to the esplanade by the Corran Halls.

'I was thinking it could even go in my back yard at the flats where I live where it might be safer - but I wanted it to stay by the sea.'

'Amnuai was liked by everyone she met. She would walk into a room and you would feel her presence straight away. She was a character. They all loved her.'

'I knew I had found someone I was comfortable with and I'd hoped we would

spend the rest of our lives with each other.

'I want to say a big thank you to all the people of Oban

who offered to help and have sent me messages of support. You are all wonderful, kind people,' said Mr Hobbs, who volunteers in two of the town's charity shops and hosts a rock and roll Saturday

night show on Oban FM. When workers at Barcaldine-based Gael Force Fusion, who originally made Amnuai's bench, saw on Facebook what happened, they also got in touch with Mr Hobbs and offered to repair it for free.

The Oban Times took Mr Hobbs to their workshop to see the fixed bench and to meet Marek Milanowski who repaired it.

Mr Milanowski has to fly to Poland on Monday to see his dying father and said his own sorrow at this time gave him great empathy for Mr Hobbs.

Mr Milanowski said: 'For me it was terrible what happened. It's difficult to believe someone would do such a thing. 'I made the bench four years ago for Mr Hobbs and I felt very sad for him. I am sharing his sadness of losing someone so special.'

## POLICE FILES

■ A man, aged 19, was searched by police and allegedly found in possession of cannabis at 3.40am on Wednesday January 9, on George Street, Oban. He was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ Sometime between 6pm on Monday January 7 and 8am on Tuesday January 8, in Nant Drive, Oban, the bodywork of a Renault Traffic van was scratched.

■ At 1.40am on Friday January 11, a 25-year-old man was stopped by police

while driving on the A85 at Dunbeg. The man provided a positive breath test, was arrested and subsequently a blood sample was taken for analysis.

■ At 3.50am on Saturday January 12, a house in Chestnut Court, Taynult, was broken into and items stolen.

■ At 11.50pm on Saturday January 12, in George Street, Oban, a man, aged 19, was arrested for behaving in an abusive manner. He was charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

■ At 1am on Monday January 14, near Oban's North Pier, a man was slightly injured on the face when someone threw a coin.

■ Sometime between Saturday December 1 and Thursday December 6, at Oban Seil Farm, Seil Island, heating oil was stolen.

■ Anyone with information in relation to any incident should contact police on telephone number 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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OT

# Lack of funding sees BOWFest 2019 cancelled

This year's Best of the West Festival, a highlight of the Argyll music scene, will not go ahead, writes David McPhee.

The blame is being placed at the door of Argyll and Bute Council and other unnamed potential funders for failing to support the event.

The local authority, however, claims it was never a primary funder of the event.

BOWFest usually takes place at Inveraray Castle in September and has been running since 2011.

Showcasing west coast talent, including musicians, artists, food and drink producers and craftspeople, it has attracted 30,000 visitors in its eight years.

One of the event's prime movers has been Eleanor, Duchess of Argyll. The

Duchess confirmed the news this week, saying: 'The reality is we receive no government support and Argyll and Bute Council has withdrawn its financial assistance. Funding available from some local community sources has also been consistently denied despite the proven local interest and economic benefits.'

'This local economic boost was delivered at the direct cost and risk to Argyll Estates. The festival was never a profit-making event and all returns, if any, were ploughed back in to the festival pot for the following year.'

'Many individuals put substantial efforts into making it a great event for the past eight years and the festival is indebted to all the supporters and sponsors, old and new, who helped make the Best

of the West happen. I know many people will be greatly disappointed.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said the only money it had contributed towards the festival was £2,500 to sponsor a craft tent and around £1,000 to pay for a drinks reception.

The spokesperson added: 'We are disappointed Best of the West will not go ahead this year.'

'We provide funding where possible for events, however, it should be noted our contribution to this festival has been low level and on an ad-hoc basis, rather than as a key partner.'

'Given on-going cuts to our budgets, expectations of councils have to be realistic and events have to be commercially sustainable.'



Teenie and David Wilson's home in Port Ramsay, Lismore, was gutted on January 8 after a fire started near their shed and spread to the house. The island community has organised a fundraiser to help the couple.



## Lismore couple lose everything in house fire

Continued from page one.

and fantastic neighbours. The whole community has been amazing. It's a fabulous community.'

Teenie expects the rebuild to take up to a year.

In the meantime, the couple will be living in Appin with Teenie's mum for a 'month or two', while David travels daily to the shop.

After that, the couple hope to secure accommodation on the island until work on their home is completed.

A Scottish Fire and Rescue Service spokesperson confirmed they received a call at 12.08pm on Tuesday January 8 to report a house fire at Port Ramsay and that a local appliance attended.

To help Teenie and David, the community of Lismore has organised a fundraising night on Saturday February 16 to help Teenie and David.

The event will take place from 5-7pm in the public hall and will feature 'a lot of food'. 'Local residents are donat-

ing lots of dishes so people can have a meal for a donation to this worthy cause,' Paul Speakman said.

'There will be other food for sale on the night.'

'After the food event, we are having an hour of performance from people who either live on Lismore or who have a connection to the island.'

'We will be finishing the evening off with a Lismore ceilidh.'

'Entry to the music event is by donation.'



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Susan Simpson and her daughter Charis alongside the donated gowns. 17\_T03\_Zaagi01

## Oban women donate wedding dresses

Women in Oban donated their wedding dresses to a good cause on Saturday.

A total of 20 dresses were gifted to the Oban branch of Zaagi in Argyll, a charity that supports families which have lost babies.

The charity transforms the dresses into a range of handmade garments, including nesting blankets, wraps and blessing gowns, so the baby has 'something beautiful'.

Susan Simpson, who organised the event in The Rockfield Centre, said: 'We have been inundated with dresses and five people have come forward to sew for us.'

'It has really gone better

than I expected. We really appreciate the response from the community because when my daughter was born she was wrapped in towels all day. We had nothing and she was not offered anything.'

'That's why I am so passionate about seeing and making sure families are given something beautiful that is made with love to honour their baby. They deserve something beautiful.'

Susan added: 'Amy Cox sent her wedding dress all the way from Uist and is now looking at arranging a similar event in Uist as other islanders have offered their gowns.'

'We are waiting to hear

back from The Rockfield Centre about a monthly slot where seamstresses can come together. We very much appreciate the ongoing support of Oban Community Trust.'

The Oban branch of Zaagi is looking for volunteer knitters, crocheters and seamstresses. It also needs volunteers to help wash and unpick each dress, someone to help with social media and administration, and fundraisers.

If you have a wedding dress to donate, drop it in to the monthly seamstresses meeting at The Rockfield Centre.

The date will be published in The Oban Times as soon as one is set.

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# Region's parking income rockets

Parking income in Argyll and Bute has increased by more than anywhere else in Scotland over the past four years while less money is being spent on the area's roads, a new report has claimed.

According to figures released by a car insurance company, the council's increase in parking income of 262.5 per cent since 2013-14 is the fifth highest in the UK.

Revenue taken from car parking increased from £69,000 in the 2013/14 financial year to £274,000 in 2017/18, the confused.com report stated.

## Spent

But in common with most councils across the UK, the authority's spend on roads has decreased, from £9.9m to £9.2m. This amounts to a decrease of more than 15 per cent when adjusted for inflation.

However, last month the council revealed it was one of the top five in Scotland in terms of improvement in road conditions.

An additional £16m investment in roads over the next two years was approved in February 2018 as part of the budget.

The figures, extracted from official accounts published by authorities, also show that spending on roads by Scottish councils dropped from a total of £365m to £333m, while parking income rose from £30m to £42m.

A spokesperson for the insurance company said: 'While councils are justified in charging for parking and issuing fines for illegal parking, our research found



many motorists are confused about why more isn't done to improve roads, given the amount of money councils receive in fines.

'Poor road conditions are a major concern for drivers, with roads riddled with potholes and unclear markings. It's no wonder drivers want councils to be putting more into making these better.

'Parking and other charges are a huge burden on motorists when the cost of driving is already very expensive.

'Those who think they have been fined unfairly are with-in their rights to challenge it, and our guide offers advice on how to do this.'

The insurance company also stated that 54 per cent of people surveyed as part of its research think that parking fines should be spent on improving roads.

It also found that one in four UK drivers who were surveyed has suffered damage to their vehicle as a result of poor road conditions in the past two years.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We'd like to have maintained parking charges at their previous very low levels, but this unfortunately was not an option.

'Year-on-year cuts to our funding mean that, like all councils, we must make changes to how we work, having previously kept charges to a minimum for as long as possible.

## Services

'Money raised will go towards essential council services, including car park maintenance.'

Speaking in December, Councillor Roddy McCuish, the authority's policy lead for roads and amenity services, said: 'Calculations done for each local authority show that it will take investment of £10m each year to keep Argyll and Bute's roads in their current condition.

'To get them up to a fully maintained state, in one year, would cost £101m.

'Year-on-year cuts to our

funding mean that, like all councils, we must think carefully about how we provide the vital services you tell us you need.

'There is still additional commitment for our roads for the next two years.'

## Oban High School former pupils invited to reunion dance

Former pupils of Oban High School, of any year group, are invited to a supper dance in the Royal Hotel on Saturday March 9.

Two years ago, the Former Pupils' Association in Glasgow decided it could no longer sustain annual meetings in Glasgow and, after trying a dinner dance themselves in Oban, passed the reins to a local group who will hold annual events in the town.

The dance was well supported last year but, in an effort to get more former pupils (FP) interested, the event has been changed into a hot supper dance rather than a formal dinner dance.

This is being supported by the Royal Hotel, which will provide a buffet menu including soup, chicken and ham pie, beef bourguignon, haddock with cheese sauce, mushroom stroganoff, and apple and cinnamon crumble, all at an excellent price. The

hotel is also doing a deal on bed and breakfast for people attending the event from further afield.

The price of a ticket for the buffet and dance, with music by the Martainn Skene Duo, is £20. Tickets are selling well but it is important that as many people as possible buy tickets early so numbers are finalised. Tickets will not be available at the door.

This is a great opportunity to meet with friends, old and current, and it would be great if FPs gathered some friends and come together to enhance the craic.

More information and tickets are available from David Brown 01631 565242, Lachie Beaton 01631 565890 and Rosemary Omand 07876 585416, and on Facebook.

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## Electric bus comes to Oban

West Coast Motors is test-running an electric bus on Oban's roads.

The bus is operating on routes in the town for a two-week period.

A spokesperson for West Coast Motors said: 'As part of our ongoing commitment to improve service, we're currently trialling an E200 MMC vehicle on our Oban routes. The bus is lighter, greener and more fuel efficient.'

West Coast Motors has already bought two of the vehicles for its Campbeltown



West Coast Motors is trying out an electric bus in Oban.

fleet and is carrying out the trial in Oban to see if they should invest in others for the town itself.

## No update on closed playpark

There is still no update on a long-term solution to Oban Community Playpark's 'big park', which has been closed for around 10 months.

The five-to-15s area was closed in March last year after a safety inspection because sections of flooring had become hazardous.

Argyll and Bute Council was originally seeking a short-term solution to fix the issue, but this was not possible.

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OT

# New fund aims to promote tourism

A new multi-million-pound fund to promote the outstanding scenery, wildlife and culture of the Highlands and Islands opens for applications today (Monday January 14).

The £5 million Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund, which is led by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), will invest in projects that benefit the Highlands and Islands by improving the experience of visitors who come to discover and explore the region's nature and culture.

The funding comes through the Scottish Government's European Regional Development Fund programme, with match funding from other sources bringing overall investment to more than £7million.

The fund will invest in around 10 major new projects. In addition to promoting the nature and culture



Fiona Hyslop MSP.

of the area, this investment aims to create and support jobs, helping communities to sustain local services.

Job creation is an important measure of success for the fund so all projects are encouraged to demonstrate benefits such as creating and sustaining employment, businesses and services in the local community.

Applicants can come from the public, voluntary or third sectors. However, the fund is not suitable for applications from the private sector, individuals, commercial enterprise, or organisations run entirely by volunteers.

Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, said: 'Tourism is an important aspect of the Highlands and Islands economy, with many communities dependent on visitors who are attracted to the region by its beautiful landscapes, wildlife, heritage and culture.'

'I am pleased to see Scottish Natural Heritage launch this fund and encourage relevant applicants from the area to come forward and apply. The Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund will target resources accordingly to more remote and rural parts of the region,

supporting much-needed jobs and bringing additional economic and social benefits.'

Francesca Osowska, SNH chief executive, added: 'This new fund presents fantastic opportunities to show how investing in the environment and culture of the Highlands and Islands can bring significant economic benefits.'

'SNH has already met with more than 100 prospective applicants at events across the region to discuss their project ideas. We're looking forward to hearing even more people's ideas and helping to make them happen, giving visitors an even better experience and seeing the rewards for communities in the coming years.'

The funding round opens today and closes April 22. Decisions on the successful projects will be announced in September. Further information is on the SNH website.

## MSP says new fund could boost Oban

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell has called on Argyll and Bute Council to make the most of the Scottish Government's plans to introduce a £50 million Town Centre Fund.

Finance Secretary Derek Mackay announced the new fund – that will be available through the local authority settlement – during his draft budget statement last month.

The proposal aims to drive local economic growth by helping town centres to fund projects such as repurposing buildings for retail, business and community enterprise, while improving access and infrastructure.

Mr Russell said: 'The Finance Secretary's plans to introduce a new £50 million Town Centre Fund could help transform towns like Oban, and others across Argyll and Bute.'

'The fund will be passed on through the local authority settlement, so it's up to Argyll and Bute Council to make sure our local town centres see the benefit of this substantial



Michael Russell MSP.

investment through community improvement projects. All high streets across Scotland face challenges as online retail changes the way we shop.

'But this fund has the potential to stimulate real development in our town centres, to help communities thrive.'

'I hope my parliamentary colleagues from across the political divide will get behind these budget proposals to ensure our town centres across Argyll and Bute and all of Scotland can benefit.'

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## Looking forward to visiting cruise ships

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



At this dreich and dark time of the year, it is nice to look forward to the months ahead and the promise of better weather so that's exactly what I'm doing just now.

We're in the middle of looking at which cruise ships will be visiting Oban this year and planning what we, as a town, can do to make their visit a memorable one and encourage them and their passengers to return and to tell all their friends and family how wonderful this wee town on the west coast of Scotland is.

You may not have heard of the Port of Oban Cruise Group but it has been working away for quite a few years now to improve the experience of cruise ship visits to the town for

### WHERE IS THIS?



everyone involved, both ship and shore. Many different organisations and people are involved, from Argyll and Bute Council, BID4Oban and Oban Community Council to Dunollie Castle, Museum and Grounds and Oban Distillery, to name but a few, and all give their time and effort to promote Oban as a wonderful place to visit and also encouraging Oban to realise how good it is to have all these beautiful ships calling.

I often get the complaint that all the passengers are just put on buses and taken

away from the town, but that is not true at all. Only about 25 per cent of the passengers go on day trips, leaving the majority to explore the town and local area, as well as the large numbers of crew members who come ashore to stock up on items they can't get aboard.

This year we're lucky enough to have a few of the larger ships visiting – including a Queen and a Princess – with the Queen Victoria here in June and the Pacific Princess in September.

I love seeing ships in the bay or beside Maiden Island, as they add a touch of the exotic to the landscape, and the holiday atmosphere they bring to the town is fantastic.

The photograph last week was of the lovely wall in Gibraltar Street and this week's you may not have noticed – unless you pay attention.

## War grave designation for Iolaire welcomed

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has welcomed the support of the First Minister for designating the site of the wreck of the Iolaire as a war grave.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon confirmed she was

supportive of the move. The First Minister also attended the Iolaire 100th commemorative service on January 1.

Convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and chairman of the Iolaire Working Group,

Norman A MacDonald, said: 'I very much welcome the support of the First Minister and the Scottish Government for the designation of the Iolaire site as an official war grave.'

# Cash boost for Mull and Iona projects

The Prince's Countryside Fund has awarded £25,000 to Iona Village Hall and £18,000 to Mull and Iona Community Trust in the most recent round of Rural Four funding, supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.

Rural Four aims to support communities in the British countryside cope with isolation and its related issues, with a focus on connecting residents and encouraging the development of community hubs.

The Iona Village Hall grant will go towards renovating the only community space available for the 165 residents of the island. As part of the redevelopment, the hall committee is hoping to host a monthly cinema in the hall for residents, helping those who feel isolated owing to an inability to travel to the mainland.

The grant for Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT)



An artist's impression of the new homes at Ulva Ferry.

will build on an existing project to part fund a housing project officer, overseeing the development of four new houses for long-term affordable rent in Ulva Ferry. MICT aims to work with the local community to ensure key decisions at all stages of the project are made by community members, from design through to allocation.

MICT general manager

Moray Finch said: 'We are delighted to receive this grant from the Prince's Countryside Fund, which will enable our housing project officer to take forward plans to deliver four houses for long-term affordable rent at Ulva Ferry on the rural west coast of the Isle of Mull.'

Community member Josh Little added: 'Four houses might not seem much, but in

our small community these much-needed homes will ensure there are more pupils in our primary school, more working-age adults to boost employment and a stronger community overall. This support from the Prince's Countryside Fund will ensure we can make plans a reality.'

Anja Jardine, who chairs the Iona Village Hall committee, said: 'Village halls are truly the hearts and engines of remote communities like Iona. In an age of choice and aspiration, they stand for community and commonality. It's also well-known that wedding suppers are never more enjoyable than when consumed on your local badminton court! We are delighted with the support from the Prince's Countryside Fund as it will allow us to bring the new spaces to life by equipping them to meet the needs of a variety of people.'

Claire Saunders, director of

the Prince's Countryside Fund, said: 'The fund's July 2018 research, Recharging Rural, highlighted the challenges faced by many in rural areas. Survey respondents told us that feelings of isolation were heightened by the experience of living on islands, combined with affordable housing being a top concern, and we hope that these two projects will help to bring the community together on Mull and Iona.'

The Prince's Countryside Fund is open for grant applications until February 21. Grants of up to £25,000 are available to support community shop and pub projects in rural areas, or grants of up to £50,000 are available for projects that improve the prospects of viability for family farm businesses or support building resilience in rural areas.

Find out more at [www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/grants](http://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/grants)

## New energy efficiency help for residents

People living in Argyll and Bute are being given the opportunity to make their homes more energy efficient as a result of the Scottish Government's Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland: Area Based Scheme (HEEPS: ABS).

Argyll and Bute Council has been awarded funding to help residents make energy efficiency improvements to their properties, such as underfloor, cavity wall and loft insulation.

The programme is available to owner occupiers and private rented householders living in council tax bands A to C, regardless of income, and band D if your income is less than £20,000.

For people on Argyll and Bute's islands, the criteria has been extended further to include those in band D properties and above, with an energy rating of E or below.

To register your interest or for any inquiries, contact Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282.

## Hotel guest in Oban threatened staff

Staff at an Oban hotel had to call the police when a guest turned nasty because they refused to falsify his account.

Mario Eugenio Pisaneschi from Glasgow was working as a marine engineer in the town and his employer arranged accommodation for him at the hotel, including a daily £20 allowance for food and non-alcoholic drinks.

'He asked the receptionist if he could charge alcohol as food so his company would not be aware.'

He was told this was against hotel policy,' procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said on Monday at Oban Sheriff Court.

Thirty-two-year-old Pisaneschi, of Flat 4-2, 165 Hill Street, admitted behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting at staff and assaulting one of them.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes was told that, during the incident on November 4 last year, Pisaneschi asked a second member of staff to fiddle his account and became increasingly aggressive.

Matters reached a point where a member of staff began a call to the police only for Pisaneschi to forcibly remove the handset from him and end the call and Pisaneschi then followed

him into a staff area. He then seized hold of the man's waistcoat, ripping it.

'He managed to wriggle out of his waistcoat, ran out of the hotel and called the police from there,' said Mr McGinty. Pisaneschi had calmed down by the time the police arrived.

On Monday, Sheriff Patrick Hughes deferred sentence for reports to be prepared on Pisaneschi, who was on bail from Glasgow Sheriff Court for another matter when this happened.

'This is a serious matter; serious in light of your record. The court is considering custody,' the sheriff said.

## Travelodge launches recruitment campaign

Travelodge, which operates five hotels across the Highlands, including one in Fort William, has launched a new recruitment programme for the Highlands targeting mums and dads looking to get back into work by offering jobs with hours that fit around the school run, a work buddy and access to management training.

The programme aims to help attract some of Scotland's thousands of unemployed parents into hospitality, as

part of Travelodge's plans to open 20 new hotels over the next five years, which will create approximately 400 new positions.

Jobs will be available across the company's Scottish hotels, including roles in reception, restaurants and housekeeping. Across its five hotels in the Highlands, the company is actively looking to fulfil five jobs immediately.

To apply visit: <https://www.travelodge.co.uk/careers/>

To design this new initiative,

Travelodge commissioned a survey with YouGov to gain insight into the challenges unemployed mums and dads are facing.

Key findings revealed 86 per cent of unemployed parents would like to return to work. However, 59 per cent of parents reported that the scarcity of jobs with flexibility around the school run was the biggest challenge to finding work.

More than a quarter said they want to work because they miss adult conversation.

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**Oban  
Dental Care**

OT

# Taynuilt piper dies suddenly aged 51

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A talented musician who learned his craft with Oban Pipe Band has died suddenly. Russell Campbell, originally from Taynuilt, was 51.

The dad-of-two's body was found on January 6 in Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, a few miles from the village of Howwood, where he lived.

Mr Campbell had played the bagpipes all over the world and was a member of Oban Pipe Band around the 1980s, continuing to keep up connections in the area after he moved away.

About 10 years ago he published a collection of bagpipe tunes called Bunches of Grapes, which featured the names of some of the Oban people he knew. The book is still available from the National Piping Centre in Glasgow.

Iain Hurst, who was pipe major when Mr Campbell was in Oban Pipe Band, said: 'I first knew Russell as a youngster when he came along to Oban Pipe Band in the 1980s, having been taught initially by Arthur Gillies of Kilchrenan.

'Russell was a bright and talented player who took his piping seriously – fully committed, good at learning tunes, sound technique, good bagpipe, and full of musical ideas, but he also had a great sense of humour, which never diminished.

'After he left the band and moved away, we kept in touch and we would look forward to meeting up with Russell at Taynuilt Games and at the World Championships each year. Although he dabbled in other instruments, including the banjo and the Peruvian mountain whistle, I think the Highland pipe was his first



Russell Campbell.

love and the musical ideas he had as a teenager developed through the years.

'He composed many tunes for the pipes and I was delighted when he asked me to check and proof his manuscripts when he decided to publish his collection. We had many laughs during these weeks and the book is a lasting tribute to him, containing several excellent compositions, as well as some less serious pieces. All those around the band and the piping scene who knew Russell were very sad to learn

of his passing but we have many memories of happier times, and these will stay with us always.'

Mr Campbell was also a popular cartoonist. His Causeysiders column, penned under the name Rus, entertained Paisley Daily Express readers for more than 20 years following the adventures of Sandy, Shug, Sadie and Wee Bud.

Mr Campbell had also published two novels, Movers and Shirkers and Fool Me Fool You, and was a marketing lecturer at the University of the West of Scotland.

He leaves his wife Anne, sons Fraser, 17, and Struan, 15, his mother Jean who still lives in Taynuilt and older brother Gary in Inverness.

Gary Campbell said: 'He was my brother and my friend. He was a fantastic musician and a very creative person.'

## Missed appointments costing NHS thousands



Patients failing to turn up for consultant appointments at outpatient clinics across Argyll and Bute in December could have cost the NHS more than £35,000.

Latest figures from Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership revealed 200 patients did not arrive for their appointments, with each missed appointment costing on average £176.

Other figures show its A&E departments had 2,651 unscheduled attendances and that 98.3 per cent of those patients were treated within four hours. The NHS Scotland target is 95 per cent of people visiting A&E should be discharged, admitted or transferred within that time.

There were also 55,027 hours of homecare given to 1,196 people in the district.

The figures, posted on social media by Argyll and Bute HSCP, come as patients are being urged to take a few minutes to cancel GP appointments if they are no longer needed or if patients

cannot attend. The post said: 'Practices will then be able to offer those slots to other patients who require them and help to reduce appointment waiting times.'

Patients are also being told to stay at home and keep away from close-knit areas such as hospitals, schools and nursing, and residential homes if they have flu-like symptoms or diarrhoea and vomiting.

Infections such as flu and the norovirus bug, often nicknamed winter vomiting disease, are more common at this time of the year and can spread quickly.

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H2SJP30166 10/18

## Tourist tax could boost Argyll music scene, say Newcastle academics

Research by Newcastle University spells out how the musical heritage of Argyll and Bute – which has unique piping, fiddling and arts – could be used to create sustained economic growth.

The Traditional Music and the Rural Creative Economy in Argyll and Bute, Mapping Report 2018, suggests a visitor tax – set at around two per cent of room cost – for overnight tourists to Argyll could be used to provide incentives for hoteliers and tour operators to improve what they offer in the area.

It could also be used to help support very small businesses, known as micro enterprises, in the creative industries.

Written by Dr Simon McKerrell and Dr Jasmine Hornabrook, from Newcastle University's International Centre for Music Studies (ICMuS), the report makes a series of recommendations which could help establish the traditional music scene as a bigger attraction.

They include: developing traditional music tours and trails; a formalised regional festival network; building partnerships between musicians, communities and local



More than 8,000 people attended Oban Live in 2018.

businesses; creating a digital directory of musicians; council-led infrastructure and amenities for festivals; enterprise support for musicians – such as training in accounting and digital skills; and long-term planning and investment.

'Argyll and Bute has this wonderful musical heritage which goes back centuries and there is a lot of potential to grow its music scene,' said Dr McKerrell, a senior lecturer in music at Newcastle University.

'This wouldn't just attract tourists to this beautiful part of the world, it would also bring in new people to live and work in the area, which is

also important as the population in the area is declining.

'The things which make Argyll and Bute a key visitor attraction are also the things which make it a challenging area for small enterprises set up. For example, travel can be difficult as much of Argyll is separated by water and there are many island communities.'

Dr McKerrell added: 'Our recommendations would mean that some of the challenges the area faces could be addressed quite easily through collectivising resources and reducing overheads for festival insurance, ticketing, policing, fencing, facilities and so on, which in most cases would be cost-neutral for the council, and with the potential to really boost the economy.'

The researchers spoke to musicians, promoters, organisers and businesses in the area and drew upon data about the creative economy and the 2011 census to get a full picture of the region.

The research was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and done in collaboration with Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland (TRACS).

# Dalmally to get legal notice for pylon tests

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A power developer will give Dalmally landowners 14 days' statutory notice before it carries out pylon and underground cable feasibility tests on their doorstep.

A Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council meeting heard letters outlining the tests along a set route where new pylons or cables would potentially run have now been received by a number of people owning land in the village.

No More Pylons in Dalmally co-campaigner Richard Scott said the letters from Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) warning that 14 days' statutory notice will be given before the survey work takes place were sent out because locals had blanked original correspondence.

SSEN has longstanding controversial plans for 52 new



Villagers are against more pylons in their community.

pylons in Dalmally but says underground cabling is still an option. Campaigners suspect SSEN will opt for pylons to 'save money'.

The community council meeting on January 9 was attended by more than 40 members of the public in Dalmally hall where the pylons issue was on the agenda.

'What we've decided to do is call a community meeting on February 9 at 1pm in the community hall just to concentrate on the pylon issue and the way

to take our campaign forward, making it predominantly community-led,' said Mr Scott. 'Some residents have now had letters from SSEN saying they will issue statutory notices to people whose land needs to be surveyed. It's because none of them replied to previous letters. The notice they will get is 14 days.'

The survey work will include non-intrusive site walk-overs, peat probing and some intrusive site investigations such as bore holes and trial pits.

'When the survey is happening we will be there and take photos of what they are doing. The long view is that SSEN will be looking at putting in for planning permission in the first quarter of 2020.

'They are aiming, after the land surveys, to tell the community what their proposal will be. We suspect they will say cabling underground is not possible and so they will go with the pylons.

'In 1955, they ran a 3,000-mile cable on the seabed from Kerrera to North America, it was the first transatlantic telephone cable system. How can SSEN say an underground cable in Dalmally is not feasible? It's all about money.'

The campaign against pylons has backing from MSP Michael Russell who has told SSEN that if it wants new power lines, then it should go underground.

The village already has 29 pylons. As well as people wanting

to save their dramatic scenery, there are health concerns.

A spokesperson for SSEN said initial site investigation works would be carried out soon, saying: 'The studies will continue to explore the feasibility of undergrounding part of the proposed transmission reinforcements following consultation feedback and landowners have been notified in advance so that access can be arranged.'

Community councillors have already declined an invitation to be part of a Community Liaison Group (CLG) that SSEN wanted to set up because they felt it was a closed group.

SSEN's spokesperson added: 'The creation of a CLG would not replace other methods of engagement but would serve as an additional forum for open discussion and feedback. Should the community not wish to establish a CLG, SSEN will respect this decision.'

## Reporting of sex offences on the rise

Reports of sexual offences have risen by nearly 40 per cent in Argyll and Bute, according to official figures.

But local councillors have been told detection rates for violent crime are also on the increase.

Chief Superintendent Brian Gibson said the rise in violent crime detection rates was encouraging but he admitted that falling detection rates for rape offences were a concern.

The latest figures cover the three-month period from July until September, when there were 101 sexual crime reports recorded in the area, compared to 73 for the same period in 2017.

The increase has been attributed to a rise in rape, sexual assault and crimes relating to indecent images or communications.

Addressing members of Argyll and Bute Council's community services committee, Chief Supt Gibson said that improving the detection rates for rape was a priority.



Chieftain David 'Jocky' Martin and committee member Linda Robb lead Mull and Iona Pipe Band onto the field in 2018.

## Lorne Highland Games are cancelled

by Euan Carr  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

This year's Lorne Highland Games have been cancelled owing to a lack of committee members.

The games, which typically take place on the fourth Saturday in June at Oban's Mossfield Park, faced similar issues last year, but went ahead in order not to disappoint those who had booked accommodation to attend.

A post on the games' official Facebook page said:

'Sorry everyone but due to a lack of committee members we have had to cancel the games for 2019. If you want to be involved, we will be organising a meeting in August or September to see if anyone is able to join the committee to ensure the games continue in 2020 and beyond. Please get in touch if you are interested.'

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles, Roddy McCuish, said: 'It is disappointing but understandable that this very popular local games have been cancelled.

I believe one of the reasons being lack of committee members but there may be other reasons I am unaware of. If there are people who want these games to continue then I would urge them to help out.'

With no guarantee that the games will run next year, the committee is open to having new members to help organise the games for 2020.

There will be a meeting in August or September to see if anyone wants to join the committee to ensure the games go ahead.

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OT

## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Finding innovative ways of blowing away the January blues is a staple endeavour of this post-festive, dark, dreary and anticlimactic month but if you are even marginally a music fan, Celtic Connections is a tonic most powerful.

More than 'New Year, New You' type fads, more than resolutions to spend less time on Facebook, eat no chocolate and go to the gym three times a day, Celtic Connections can lift you from the heebie-jeebies of January with the power of music as it bursts into life with the positive energy of a flock of spring lambs arriving three months early.

From today (Thursday) until February 3, this Glasgow-based roots music extravaganza will welcome acts from around the globe to perform at more than 300 events across the city and hit audience numbers in the region of last year's 130,000.

Having existed now for a quarter of a century, Celtic Connections is well-established as the biggest event of its kind in the world. Since

its inception in 1994, when it held 66 events and welcomed a modest 27,000 attendees, it has grown, developed and matured into an entity that shapes the calendar and careers of musicians and gives an annual gift to music fans.

Taynuilt man Donald Shaw of Capercaillie is still very much at the helm, although with a slight change in title from artistic director to creative producer. He has stepped back from the front-line of programming to allow for more of his time to be spent on the overall and long-term direction of the festival.

Donald's role at the head of the team in recent years has added greatly to the musical credibility of the event and he has and will continue to use his track record as a musician and his intimate knowledge of the art and the industry to maintain musical innovation and integrity.

The live music scene in Scotland is healthier than it has ever been and that seems to be particularly so in the west coast areas. Through December and early January,

the number of gigs that were happening was unbelievable.

Throughout Argyll and Lochaber it was like wacky races with Mánran, Skerryvore, Tide Lines, the Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Heron Valley, Skipinnish and other bands all hitting the roads and halls, crisscrossing each other to one full house after another.

There are many intangible as well as many clearly identifiable factors involved in the current upsurge of live music and the profile of Celtic Connection and its knock-on reverberations around the country is certainly a big contributor.

Next week I may cover some of the events I am able to attend but, in the meantime, I would urge any readers who fancy a musical feast to go online and have a look through the impressive programme of events taking place in Glasgow over the following 18 days.

However, be warned that if you go to Glasgow this weekend for a concert, you may wake up on the morning of February 4 wondering what on earth happened.



Jane Wilding and Chrissie Sugden at work on the homestead. 16\_T02\_chrisseandjane01

# Crowdfunders back holistic homestead bid

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Dalavich friends Jane Wilding and Chrissie Sugden are crowdfunding £4,000 to help save the planet.

Using a plan inspired by the great prairies of North America, they are on a mission to restore a field overgrown by bracken and rushes into a flowering meadow grazed by a happy herd of Shetland cattle and Soay sheep.

The pair are leasing a community-owned field near the village and want to restore it back to its grazing glory days, without heavy machinery or 'nasty medicine' chemicals, says Jane, who has a history of working on farms.

They have been using scythes to cut back thick, six-foot clumps of bracken and are planning to run a couple of scything courses later in the year as well as turning to Woofers – volunteers from around the world wanting to live and learn on organic farms – for extra helping hands.

Some of the cut-back bracken has been turned into bails using an adapted bin and string. The friends, who are pleased with how much grass has already started to grow back, have also just put up a barn made out of reclaimed wood.

So far their funding page

at [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/homesteadfarm](http://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/homesteadfarm) has reeled in £1,665, which will be used to put fencing in place, create a water supply and help buy the cattle. One donation has come all the way from Los Angeles.

The friends already have some sheep on the land and have a trial batch of chickens who will follow the cattle and sheep onto the field once they start their strip-grazing method. They also hope to keep ducks on the boggy bits of the site to eat fluke snails – a parasitic problem.

The idea is that there will be one permanent 'mother fence' running right down the middle of the field, with two other movable electric fencing strips attached to it. The grazing herd will not stay on each strip for long, as they will be moved on so the soil gets a chance to recover and become richer with minerals again before the animals come back round.

'The key points to this system are to let the animals take one bite of everything – no second bite – and move on. They should eat a third, trample a third and leave a third,' said Jane.

'The trampled plants keep the soil covered and add leaf litter to the soil, keeping the billions of organisms that create the function and health of the soil happy and well fed,' she added.

Also known as rotational grazing or mob grazing, strip grazing is catching on. It mimics the natural action of a herd of grazers as they keep moving away from predators. 'This is what built the great prairies of North America, with their deep, deep soil and constant lush vegetative cover,' says Jane in her Restoring Homestead blog at [restoring-homestead.wordpress.com](http://restoring-homestead.wordpress.com).

Eventually native woodland down by Loch Awe might also be used for pigs. The plan is to eventually be able to supply food from the homestead.

Jane and Chrissie, who has been an organic gardener for years, have been on a number of courses, including hand sheep shearing in Ullapool, and have also had help from Lismore farmer and grass-fed beef and lamb expert Rob Dixon-Spain, funded by the Small Farm Advisory Service.

'What we are doing is unique to this area but we are being mentored by Roger Dixon-Spain from Lismore's Sailean project who is a specialist in it. We've had three days from him thanks to funding but we'd like more,' said Chrissie.

'We hope anyone who likes the idea of supporting sustainable, regenerative, organic, local food will think about donating to our JustGiving page. Thank you to our many great supporters so far,' she added.



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# Coll global volunteering charity now spans 50 years

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A global volunteering charity sending young volunteers overseas from Coll is entering its 51st year.

The work of Project Trust was highlighted on BBC 2's recent Scots in China programme presented by Neil Oliver.

It showed 19-year-old Glaswegian Victoria Groom teaching the word 'dinnae' to a class of Chinese students.

Victoria, who has now returned to Scotland and is studying to be a lawyer, is one of more than 7,000 17- to 19-year-olds so far who have experienced living and working abroad on Project Trust placements in 22 countries across the world.

There are 15 from Argyll on placements right now, including Oban's Megan Evans who is three months



Megan Evans from Oban, left, teaching volunteers in the Solomon Islands, centre, and Victoria Groom in China.



into a year-long programme teaching disadvantaged children in South Africa. Oban High School pupil Alex Hardie and Hamish Bell, from Campbeltown Grammar School, are both teaching at Pelei Middle School, Jiamusi Shi in Heilongjiang, north-east of China.

Every year between 220

and 250 young people go out to Africa, Asia and Latin America with the education charity that has been based on Coll since 1971. The most on placement in any one year in its past half a century until now has been 300.

The project has also just started a new programme in the Solomon Islands in the

South Pacific from nursery to secondary school level.

'It's a bit like the Hebrides but much sunnier,' said Project Trust's assistant chief executive John Fraser.

There are four volunteers teaching English from 'Kindi' to secondary school level, and there are currently 15 young people from Argyll out on

placements to learn more about the world and how to become a positive force in it. Next year will see some go from Coll itself.

Each of the young people has to raise £6,200 themselves to help fund their gap year, which could take them from Senegal to Japan and Honduras and many other

far-flung places on Project Trust's map.

Before they can be chosen for the gap year, applicants have to pass a four-day residential course on Coll. They go back to the island on another two occasions, including a debriefing session.

Mr Fraser added: 'There is stiff competition to get a place with us. I'd say that the young people we send overseas are a cut above the rest. They have to get through a selection process.'

'We've been contributing to life on Coll since we arrived in the seventies. Roughly 10 per cent of passengers on CalMac sailings are down to us and local families act as accommodation hosts.'

'People moan about the youth of today but we get to know some pretty impressive young people.'

Interested in finding out more about Project Trust? Visit [projecttrust.org.uk](http://projecttrust.org.uk)

## The Regent Hotel Valentines Special

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OT

## Taynuilt OAPs' New Year event

About 60 guests were entertained at Taynuilt's annual senior citizens' New Year dinner.

The event at the village hall was organised by the community council.

Community council chairman David Sloss said: 'A big thank you to everyone who supported the event, attended as guests, entertained and helped organise it. It was another great success.'

## New guide to help Oban veterans

Age Scotland, Action on Hearing Loss Scotland and Scottish War Blinded have joined forces to produce a new guide to help veterans losing their sight or hearing receive support.

To get a free copy of the combating sight and hearing loss guide, call Age Scotland helpline on 0800 12 44 222 or download from [www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/Combat](http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/Combat)

# Dalavich hydro smashes first year power targets

by Kathie Griffiths  
[kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk)



Dalavich's community hydro has smashed expectations for its first year.

With £300,000 shares already behind it and plans to launch a new offer soon with no closing date, some of the most recent shareholders to come on board have been corporate investors which hydro project manager Carol Thomas said is 'good and always reassuring'.

From January 1 to December 31 last year, the hydro generated 1,220MWh which beat its predicted target of 1,147MWh. In December, it saw its largest monthly generation figure since it was commissioned in January – 180,000kWh.



Dalavich hydro scheme project manager Carol Thomas.

'We smashed it this year and that's despite 85 days with no generation at all. We survived the big freeze and the total lack of water over the hot summer. We could not generate at all in July because

of the weather. The river was incredibly low but because of an elbow valve we put in to the system, the water supply to the village kept flowing. That was another test but we were utterly thrilled. The sup-

ply is cleaner and better than before,' added Mrs Thomas.

A battle to persuade funders to approve local people as a routine maintenance team rather than rely on outside sources has also paid off for Awesome Energy (Dalriada) (AED), the name of the company which runs the project, especially when it came to clearing leaves from the works which was three or four times in autumn.

'We can pretty much keep it running ourselves come hell or high water which saves on costs,' said Mrs Thomas who said the 10-month turnover was £198,000.

Funds have to be set aside for the project and its financing, including a pot for insurance costs, maintenance, repairs and necessary replacements. Income from energy pro-

duced will be ploughed back into local community projects once the build and infrastructure costs are paid back. We are cautiously optimistic this turbine is going to exceed all expectations.

'It's looking good. We have been able to give back the £6,000 invested by Dalavich Improvement Group to help us get our funding started.

The scheme is also attracting a lot of visitors, including a group from a Malawi church, and nature is coming back through all the land works that had to be carried out.

'The primroses are poking through,' said Mrs Thomas.

Information boards and picnic benches will follow.

To find out more about the scheme and share options go [awesome-energy.com/shareholders.html](http://awesome-energy.com/shareholders.html)

## Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell blasts high parcel charges

New figures show high parcel delivery surcharges in Argyll and Bute and across the Highlands and Islands are continuing to be imposed unfairly by retailers in defiance of strong public concern and political campaigning.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'It is simply wrong that, despite the hard work and efforts from MSPs, MPs, the media and members of the public across Scotland backing the Fair Delivery Charges campaign, shoppers in Argyll and

Bute and across the Highlands and Islands are paying more this year on parcel delivery surcharges than last year.

'Research commissioned by my colleague Richard Lochhead shows that shoppers in Argyll and Bute were forced

to spend £3.95m in 2018 – up from £3.77m in 2017 – on surcharges simply because of where they live.

'Some will argue this is because more use is being made of online shopping, but that should have the effect

of reducing delivery costs, not increasing them. In fact, rural consumers rely on online shopping because of their geographical disadvantages and they should not have to put up with the incredibly high – and rising – surcharges that retail-

ers impose. While authorities are now starting to take action, a more urgent approach is now needed. The UK is responsible for regulating on this matter and needs to intervene and tackle the issue. Westminster needs to listen and act.'

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## Commission begins islands review

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland has begun reviews of electoral arrangements for the six council areas specified in the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018, beginning with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

The reviews will result in recommendations for the number of councillors on each authority and the number and boundaries of wards for the election of those councillors. They will not look at the external boundaries of council areas.

The new islands legislation allows for use of one or two member wards, in addition to the current multi-member wards, where a ward includes an inhabited island.

When reviewing electoral arrangements, the commission is required to take account the interests of effective and convenient local government; within each council, each councillor should represent around the same number of electors; local ties that would be broken by making a particular boundary; special geographical considerations.

Where a ward contains an inhabited island, the commission can recommend it elects between one and four councillors. In all other circumstances, a ward must return either three or four councillors.

# 100 people want to move to Ulva

More than 100 people have expressed an interest in moving to Ulva since the buyout of the island.

June 21, 2018, was an historical date for the isle of Ulva, the subject of a successful community buyout after the private owner placed the island on the market.

The community of Ulva, represented by the North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited (NWMWCW), secured funds from the Scottish Land Fund, the Macquarie Group and crowdfunding to allow them to buy the island.

The community buyout attracted media attention from all corners of the world which

resulted in the community receiving more than 100 expressions of interest to move to the island.

One of the first priorities for the community is a plan to renovate six existing houses to provide quality homes for the current two households and four for newcomers.

This will support the community's aspiration to regenerate Ulva and grow the population.

New residents and businesses are required to enable the population to grow.

The renovation of the existing houses presents a strong starting point as individuals or businesses skilled in construction may



The Boathouse on Ulva.

land on Ulva and north west Mull. Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) was appointed by NWMWCW to run a survey allowing individuals, families and businesses who wish to relocate to Ulva a chance to express their interest.

The survey highlights the opportunities on Ulva and the skills and experience the community is looking for to become sustainable. Anyone with an interest in relocating to Ulva is encouraged to complete the survey and register their interest.

The survey can be accessed via HSCHT or NWMWCW's websites, Facebook and Twitter.

have immediate employment opportunities to live and work on the island. Similar

positions may also exist for those experienced in forestry to manage and maintain

## Litter picked up from Tesco car park in aid of charity

A total of 25 bags of litter were collected from in and around Tesco car park on Sunday to raise money for charity.

Lee McKillop and three friends – Matthew McKay, Adrian Rowe and Claire Rizos, – spent two hours picking the rubbish in order to raise money for the Sophie North Charitable Trust.

Speaking on Sunday about the amount of litter, Lee said: 'It is absolutely disgusting. It is unbelievable.'

The Sophie North Charitable Trust commemorates the 16 children, including Sophie North, five, and their teacher who lost their lives in the Dunblane massacre 22 years ago.

Last year, Lee carried out three litter picks for the trust and plans on doing the same this year. 'I am going to do another one in February,' she said. 'And then I will either be doing one in March or one as part of the Oban Spring Clean.'



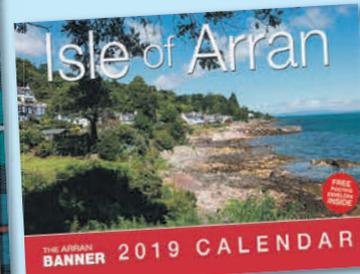
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# Sad end to a little piece of telecommunications history

Jim Cooper, now living in Stockton on Tees, recalls the day the famous transatlantic cable was brought ashore in the 1950s just outside Oban

When I was a young boy – probably about nine or 10 – back in 1948, my uncle drove the Co-op travelling shop to remote farms around the area surrounding Oban and on Saturdays I used to accompany him on his rounds.

The area he covered was any of the remote farms to the south of Oban and it was a big help to the farmers' wives who could not get to the shops.

One of the farms was in the Gallanach area, so it was not quite as remote as others, but the travelling shop was welcome because it carried

accumulators which powered the wireless (as we called them then; today we would use solid state batteries) which people used to power the radio. They were very heavy items and impossible for a housewife to collect from the shops. I assume that these farms did not have mains electricity.

Little did I realise then that six years later I would return to that same area to help create a piece of telecommunications history.

Gallanach was destined to be the area where the transatlantic cable was to come



This is a still from the film *The Voice Beneath the Sea*, which tells the story of the first transatlantic telecommunications cable, which came ashore at Gallanach.

ashore after being laid under the Atlantic Ocean, originating in the United States. Not

only that, but I was destined to work in that very site which was a tunnel dug into the rocks, when I joined Post Office Telephones way back in 1955.

To add to this piece of history, I was one of a number of crew members who actually guided the cable ashore and I have a piece of film showing myself and my brother Eddie, along with others, actually dragging it ashore.

As a result of my age at the time, I am probably the last survivor of that small piece of history.

What few people would know was that when the cable end was being pulled through the sea, it got jammed on rocks just offshore. It could not be pulled back because of the weight and because it was so well and truly stuck.

Fortunately, one of our crew members, Willie (I've forgotten his surname) was a trained deep-sea diver and still had all his equipment at home. He was duly sent to bring everything to the site. Once outfitted with heavy

led boots and helmet, he went down and found that the cable was jammed between two rocks but this was something that was never mentioned in the documentary. He eventually released it and we continued to pull it onto the shore.

I have to say that we all managed to obtain a piece

'What few people would know was that when the cable end was being pulled through the sea, it got jammed on rocks just offshore.'

of that cable, suitably cut to show the different layers which made it up. Sadly, when I left Oban in 1959, I left it behind and I don't know what happened to it – a little piece of telecommunications history.

As an apprentice, we had to

gain experience on different aspects of the company so I was sent down to 'The Tunnel' as we called it, to carry out construction work, adding to and recovering cables. I was instructed to recover some lead-covered cables which were housed on an overhead rack at ceiling height.

At one point the rack went through a vent in the wall and I had to stand on one side and pull the cable through. Unfortunately, as I was pulling it through, it fell off the rack and landed on a fuse board which, because the cable had an outer covering of lead, blew a fuse. Not only did this put all the lights out but cut the power which was supplying the transatlantic cable and put it off the air. I really feared for my job.

Sadly, technology has progressed so much that The Tunnel is now redundant and I assume is empty. I am informed by my brother that it is locked up and derelict. A sad end to a piece of telecommunications history.

This is my claim to fame.

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## Teacher mental health sick days on the rise

Argyll and Bute Council has pledged its support for its staff after the number of sick days for head teaching staff for mental health issues doubled in the area last year.

Figures have revealed that 356 sick days were taken by head or deputy head teachers for mental health reasons in 2017-18, compared to 158 the

previous year. The number of days taken by affected teachers and support staff also increased, bringing about a total of 3,555 sick days taken by teaching staff in Argyll and Bute in 2017/18 – compared to 3,166 in 2016/17 and 3,117 in 2015/16.

The data has been uncovered by a Freedom of Information

request made by the Scottish Liberal Democrats.

A council spokesperson said: 'Local authorities across Scotland are all experiencing a rise in sickness absence – something we take seriously. The health and wellbeing of our workforce is a priority and we have put a variety of support services in place.'

# Chloe strives to improve quality of lives on islands

The Oban Times is running a series of articles championing the work carried out by Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles locality. Each article features a specific service provided by the HSCP and focuses on the staff who provide that service and the role they play in making a positive difference for the people living in Oban and surrounding areas. This week we look at the work of Chloe Morrow.

Chloe Morrow is one of Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's (HSCP) specialist occupational therapists.

Her career in Argyll and Bute began in 2017 and she is currently based on the Isle of Mull delivering services to Mull and Iona communities, including providing inpatient care at Mull and Iona Community Hospital.

Chloe graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University in 2013 and worked as an addictions occupational therapist helping people identify coping skills to help them recover from substance use disorders. She developed further skills at the Vale of Leven Hospital caring for older people.

During this time she became passionate about acute, complex and chronic rehabilitation of stroke patients. Chloe said: 'I was dedicated to working in the acute stroke unit and was really pleased to be involved in championing the reintroduction of the occupational therapy stroke outreach service.'

'Being an occupational therapist means working with an interesting diversity of people of all ages and backgrounds, and can take place in a variety of settings such as the client's own home, nursing home, clinic or in an educational capacity.'

Her current position within Mull Occupational Therapy Department has a major role in the advanced assessment and treatment



Chloe Morrow is an occupational therapist.

of patients. Chloe's main priorities are promoting recovery to improve people's quality of life following ill health and

'My job means working with an interesting diversity of people of all ages and backgrounds and can take place in a variety of settings such as the client's own home, nursing home, clinic or in an educational capacity.'

to ensure the best possible outcome for them.

Chloe also has a duty to implement care plans, which include a variety of goal-directed therapies such as functional and cognitive assessments,

rehabilitation and education, provision of equipment and adaptations to make people's homes safer and more accessible as their abilities change.

No two days are ever the same and are wide-ranging, from screening someone in their own home to assessing how they manage with daily independent living tasks, to arranging installation of specialised equipment for people with disabilities.

Chloe continued: 'Most people take it for granted when they are fit and healthy and have the ability to perform daily living tasks like cooking their own meals, getting out of bed, washing and dressing themselves.'

'Episodes of illness or long-term conditions can result in life changes and compromise independent living. As part of my reablement role, I work with people to help them regain their confidence and support them to live independently in their own homes.'

'I could be providing essential equipment for someone coming home from hospital after having had a hip replacement to making recommendations for major adaptations, such as wet-floor shower rooms or ramped accesses.'

It is so important to daily triage referrals to the occupational therapy service (OT) service to ensure that the most critical cases are dealt with as quickly as possible. This is due to people living longer, alongside unhealthy lifestyles and an increase in patients with complex and long-term conditions, and it means much more demand on the OT service.

At present Chloe, team lead nurse Kate MacCallum and team lead occupational

therapist Julie Henderson are working together to develop a moving and handling pathway for Mull and Iona residents.

This model of care will promote joined-up working and increase patient safety for residents.

This way of working brings together a range of organisations and partners who provide health and social care services with the aim to provide easier access to social care when they need it.

Chloe also encourages all her patients and clients to give feedback during their occupational therapy input to ensure that they are satisfied and feel involved in their care. This helps her to engage in reflective practice to identify areas where

she would like to develop as a practitioner, set action plans and develop in her chosen professional field.

Chloe added: 'The success of my role is having excellent communication and relationship building skills with the tenacity to ensure that I deliver patient-centered care at all times.'

Chloe is originally from the Isle of Mull and enjoys the miles of breathtaking coastlines that are filled with wildlife. She also likes the security of living in a small, friendly community and attending community events. She enjoys taking part in many of the indoor and outdoor activities that are available to keep fit, well and entertained.



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# BUSINESS NEWS

## IN BRIEF

Highlands and Island Enterprise is inviting firms to help prepare for Brexit by attending a free workshop.

Delivered by the Institute of Export and International Trade (IoE), the workshop will cover the impact of Brexit on EU trade, along with the wider implications on exporting to the rest of the world.

Companies will also find out more about the support available for businesses and have the opportunity to ask specific questions related to the consequences of Brexit.

The workshop is on Thursday January 24 from 9.30am at the Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness.

Data from more than 400,000 British businesses and three million job requests has revealed which businesses will be the most successful to start in 2019, based on supply and demand. Dog and pet grooming tops the list, with only 20 per cent of job requests finding a professional on average across the country, indicating there is not enough supply in the sector.

Argyll farm brewery Fyne Ales and the Lochawe pub Ben Cruachan Inn have released details of an exclusive ale that has been re-branded as the St Conan's Workbench IPA. The venture has come about in support of the iconic St Conan's Kirk in Lochawe, which is raising money towards its extensive maintenance and restoration costs. The Trustees and Friends of Saint Conan's Kirk estimate that the building requires £1 million over the next few years.

# Jura distillery boost from business service

From space asteroid mining and artisan bacon production to the renovation of a Jura gin distillery, the Scottish economy has received a major boost after more than 53,000 customers connected with Business Gateway in 2018.

As a result, Business Gateway is set to build on its track record with the launch of a new Missing Pieces campaign aimed at further increasing the number of enterprises it helps to achieve their potential and contribute to the growth of the Scottish economy.

Scotland's national business advice service helped budding entrepreneurs address a wide range of issues during 2018. This included performing a key role in helping more than 3,000 SMEs to scale up their growing businesses as well as provide crucial support that has seen more than 9,000 new businesses successfully start up.

Hugh Lightbody, chief officer at Business Gateway, said: 'By connecting with us, businesses have the opportunity to develop in all areas - whether that is establishing themselves in the market or sustainably scaling up. In addition to having access to someone offering impartial advice, Business Gateway has extensive online resources and offers free research services.'

'At a time when Brexit offers uncertainty, it's crucial to continue to grow Scotland's indigenous businesses and build on their deep-rooted entrepreneurial spirit.'

'We want to drive growth forward through our Missing Pieces campaign and demonstrate how Business Gateway can support ambitious enterprises by pinpointing vital business func-



Lussa Gin's, left to right, Georgina Kitching, Alicia MacInnes and Claire Fletcher.

tions which contribute towards unlocking their full potential.

'As part of a wider national and local business support network, we also have strong partnerships with a variety of economic development and business support organisations that our clients can benefit from.'

Central to helping businesses succeed has

been Business Gateway's ability to listen to what businesses need, find the pieces they are missing, deliver the right support and make the right connections. Key areas of support include making better use of digital technology, exploring new markets, innovation and access to finance.

Claire Fletcher, co-owner of Lussa Gin based on the Isle of Jura, said: 'Business Gateway has offered us invaluable support while navigating our way through a competitive gin marketplace.'

'As we live in a remote part of Scotland, the challenge to get Lussa Gin recognised in the market was initially problematic. However, with Business Gateway's support, we attended trade fairs and training events across the country and began an online mentoring service in social media training.'

'As the presence of Lussa Gin grew in the industry and online, we earned our own identity in the market as the Isle of Jura's only gin distillery.'

'With demand for Lussa Gin growing, our production also had to increase. Once again Business Gateway was able to offer us financial support to renovate our distillery. We now produce up to 10,000 bottles of Lussa Gin per year.'

With a network of more than 170 advisers throughout Scotland, Business Gateway offers a range of free business support services and advice tailored to individual needs wherever they are on their business journey.

For more information about Business Gateway, visit [www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com)

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## Argyll and Bute firms called on to get active

Scotland's walking charity is calling on businesses in Argyll and Bute to sign up to its new accreditation that aims to reverse the trend of inactive workplaces.

Paths for All has created the Walk at Work Award to reward employers across the country who are encouraging walking in their workplace.

With the average working-age adult sitting for 9.5 hours a day, the charity will not just recognise employers who promote everyday walking, but will offer guidance to those who want their workforce to become more active.

Active meetings, lunchtime walks, standing desks and promoting ways to get to work on foot will all count towards the award.

By signing up for the award, employers will receive one-to-one support on how to create a walking culture at work as well as examples of best practice and where to find extra help and resources.

Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills Jamie Hepburn said: 'When people commute, particularly those who work in offices or who travel by car, they tend to be more inactive. This award will reward employers who encourage regular walks, breaks from the desk and activity during the working day.'

'It will also offer support to businesses who are interested in helping their staff become



Jamie Hepburn, Ian Findlay from Paths for All and Lesley Glen of ICAS.

more active but perhaps don't know where to start. I'd encourage employers to look at what they can do to foster a walking culture and register for the Walk at Work Award.'

Ian Findlay, chief officer at Paths for All, said: 'Walking is one of the simplest and best things we can do for our physical and mental health. It's free, you don't need any special equipment, and it can be easily incorporated into the average working day.'

'This award will not only reward work-

places that are creating a walking culture for their staff, it will also increase and encourage a variety of different walking opportunities and activities during the day.'

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland (ICAS) is among the first businesses to sign up to the Walk at Work Award.

For more information, or to register for the Walk at Work Award, visit [www.walkatwork.scot](http://www.walkatwork.scot), email [walkatwork@pathsforall.org.uk](mailto:walkatwork@pathsforall.org.uk) or call 01259 218888.

## First Loganair jet lands in Stornoway

The first Embraer 145 Jet to operate the Glasgow to Stornoway air route took to the skies yesterday, carrying 23 passengers and four crew.

Sporting the airline's distinct tartan livery, the 49-seat jet will cut 18 minutes off a return service between the Western Isles and Glasgow.

Piloted by Captain Neil McHugh and First Officer Hunter Mercer, the jet landed in Stornoway at 3.55pm before departing again at 4.30pm.

Loganair will use the Embraer 145 on the afternoon and evening rotations between Glasgow and Stornoway until January 28, when it will then be used across the schedule. It will also serve Manchester on Fridays and Sundays, as well as operating between Benbecula and Glasgow at weekends.



Captain Neil McHugh with crew members Heidi Horrocks and Helen McGrath.

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## Highlanders feature in biographical dictionary

The latest update of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography was published last week and adds biographies of 226 men and women who left their mark on the UK and who died in the year 2015.

Prominent figures in the new edition include politicians Denis Healey (1917-2015), Geoffrey Howe (1926-2015) and Charles Kennedy (1959-2015), singers Cilla Black (1943-2015) and Val Doonican (1927-2015), and writers Sir Terry Pratchett (1948-2015), Ruth Rendell (1930-2015) and Brian Friel (1929-2015).

Charles Kennedy (1959-2015), the Inverness-born leader of the Liberal Democrats, galvanised the opposition to the Iraq war in 2003 and in 2005 led his party in winning 62 seats – the greatest number for a centre party since the Liberals in 1923.

His relaxed style of leadership and willingness to engage the media made him a familiar face and a much-admired politician, though critics derided him as 'chatshow Charlie'. Sadly, his public performances and leadership became more erratic as a result of alcoholism, and in January 2006 he was forced to resign. Although he appeared to have conquered his demons, he died of a haemorrhage at the age of 55.

From a much older generation, George Mackie, Baron Mackie of Benshie (1919-2015) was a farmer, Bomber Command veteran, Liberal MP and peer, who rescued Caithness Glass and was a major figure in the public life of north-east Scotland.

William McIlvanney (1936-2015) created the fictional detective Jack Laidlaw, a witty and philosophical commentator on the badlands of Glasgow.

The historian Jenny Wormald (1942-2015) applied a sharp analytical eye to early modern Scottish history, in the process rehabilitating the Stuart kings.

Gifted with a beautiful voice and superb memory, Flora MacNeil (1928-2015), from Barra, became perhaps the best known performer of Scottish Gaelic music.

# Call the doctor? Ca

## Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



'If you don't have your health, you have nothing,' is a saying that I keep coming across. How true.

It doesn't matter how wealthy you are or what you own – if you are unwell, everything else pales into insignificance.

Have you ever wondered what our forebears did when they fell ill before NHS24 and when doctors were few and far between?

Donald Morrison (1885-1986) from Ardtun on Mull, whom I recorded for the School of Scottish Studies archives, told me that when he was a boy a doctor would visit the Ross of Mull and hold his surgery beside a large boulder in an open field every few months.

Dr John MacLachlan of Rahoy (1804-74), the famous Gaelic bard, often travelled long distances to tend to the sick, as did Dr MacNaughton from Salen, Loch Sunart. These were popular men, famous for their medical skill and revered by the less well-off members of the community for waiving their fees in times of hardship long before the birth of the National Health Service.

Summoning medical help in days gone by was difficult and often involved signalling by lighting fires on hilltops or remote headlands and sending a pony along a rough and tortuous track in the dead of night aided by the light of a lantern.

Our grannies used to say that wherever there was disease or sickness, a cure would be found in the locality. From this it was obvious country folk had a far greater grasp of healing than the average person does today.

Hippocrates, a Greek physician who lived more than 2,000 years ago and was considered the most outstanding figure in the history of medicine, maintained that a doctor must teach his patients to care for their own health. Until recently, however, most doctors thought that patients could know too much.

Now, thanks to the internet and the award-winning TV series *Embarrassing Bodies*, which aims to destigmatise common complaints that many people would rather ignore than take to their GP, attitudes have changed which must go a long way towards preventive medicine.

Great store was put on herbal and folklore remedies. Given the ingredients in some of today's pills, it is obvious the oldies knew a thing or two. Aspirin for example, is a derivative of willow bark, which was known for centuries to relieve chronic headaches or back pain. Willow bark is also used in some products to aid weight loss. When taken in moderation, willow bark does not appear to have negative side-effects. The salicin in it converts to salicylic acid said to be gentler on the stomach than lab-created aspirin.

A favourite wild plant which people in the Hebrides have used for medicine is bog bean *Menyanthes trifoliata* (Gaelic, Tribhileach – three leaves). Bog bean is found in ditches and bogs and its complex root structure when boiled was used extensively for rheumatoid arthritis, loss of appetite, upset stomachs and hangovers. Until a few years ago, it was prescribed by a Mull doctor and was very popular among an older generation who used to say there was a cure in every knot.

Frequent references to simple herbal remedies does not mean that there were no trained doctors living and working in the Highlands and Islands.

The Beatons, alias McBeths or Bethunes, thought to have come from Northern Ireland in the 13th century, were hereditary Gaelic speaking physicians to the MacDonald Lords of the Isles from whom they received land in return for medical services. Others, though less well known and not so numerous, were the O'Conchobhairs and the McPhails, who worked closely with the Beatons.

One of the earliest Beaton doctors in Scotland on record was Patrick McBeth, who was physician to Robert the Bruce (1274-1329). The name McBeth means 'son of life', an appropriate surname for a doctor.

The Beatons settled at Balinaby on Islay in the parish of Kilchoman evidenced by a fine cross standing in the churchyard bearing a Latin inscription which, translated into English, reads: 'This is the cross by Thomas, son of Patrick, doctor, for the souls of his father, mother and wife, and all of the faithful departed and of the said'.

Some of the Beaton family later moved into Mull, around Oban and to Skye to become physicians to the MacLeod chiefs.

A branch were doctors and surgeons to the Munros of Foulis, who gave them land at Culnaskea and Delny in Ross-shire from c1550-1700.

When King James VI of Scotland went to live



in England in 1603, he took his doctor, James Beaton, with him.

Not content to sit back enjoying landowning status, the Beatons travelled to Europe where they studied cutting-edge medicine at some of the most famous research centres of the time. From Padua, Salerno, Montpellier and Leyden, they brought home copies of ancient medical manuscripts and translated them into Irish Gaelic. Twenty-two of these documents are in the National Library of Scotland. So highly prized were they that one of them was designed with straps so that it could be attached to the doctor's belt to prevent the document getting wet on long journeys. Farquhar Beaton of Husabost on Skye had one such volume which he considered so valuable that when he travelled by boat it was sent by land.

Dr H Cameron Gillies, an Argyll man, trans-



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# all on nature



Rahoy, Loch Teacuis, home of Dr John MacLachlan, the famous Gaelic bard and physician of the west. Photograph: Iain Thornber

lated some of these manuscripts into Scottish Gaelic and in 1911 published a book about them called Regimen Sanitatis – The Rule of Health, which is largely concerned with diet.

One of his transcriptions reads: 'You ought to know that it is on the right side you should at first sleep for it is so that digestion is better made because the livers are under the stomach, and you should afterwards turn upon the left side so that the food is not drawn towards the liver before it is fully digested.'

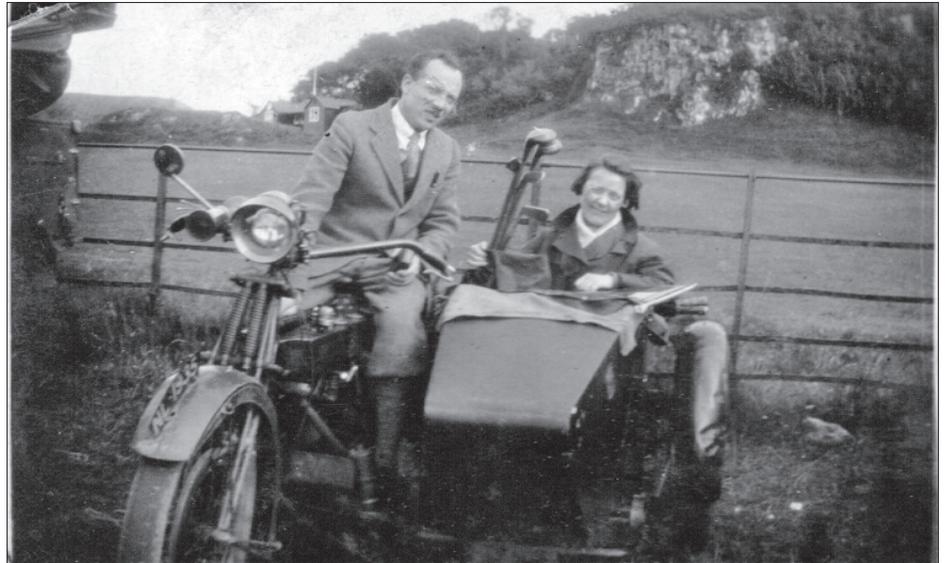
Whoever compiled the manuscript counselled against eating fruits other than roasted apples, raisins and figs, saying the father of Galen of Pergamon, a Greek physician, surgeon and philosopher in the Roman Empire, lived

a hundred years because he did not eat fruit. Wine was not to be taken during a meal but afterwards because it makes the food pass out of the stomach before it is digested. Old men were to eat meat in the morning and bread only at supper in small quantities. 'Nevertheless, if several kinds of food [are] to be eaten at one meal, it is better to give the mild [tender] things first and the fat things afterwards, for when the mild food is eaten after the fat it is quickly digested and the fat food is not, and it will be in that time seeking a way out and it cannot get it because the fat food is below.'

Food was to be taken three times in two days 16 hours apart. So much for the multiple courses which some of us eat these days.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

We delve into The Oban Times archives to bring you faces and places from yesteryears



This photograph was sent in by Iain MacLeod from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, who said: 'I inherited a collection of photos taken by my grandfather, Alec MacLeod. He was born in Lewis, grew up in Inverness and made his home in Glasgow after the First World War. My grandfather kept a camera nearby for the better part of 60 years, starting in the early 1900s, right up to the late 1960s. He even took a camera into the trenches of the eastern front of the First World War. This one of my favourites, featuring my grandparents on a vacation. I did not know the location until the other day – Oban, July 1927.'



Don't fancy climbing the ben? Go for a sail instead! Photograph: Alex Gillespie per Roamer collection

## Selling your Whisky Cask?

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OT

## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB**Disappointing loss  
to social calendar in  
Argyll and Bute**

The Best of the West Festival has established itself as a hugely popular event in its eight years of existence so it is disappointing that it will not go ahead this year.

The finger has been pointed at, among others, Argyll and Bute Council for a lack of funding, though the local authority has been quick to defend itself, saying its only contribution financially was £2,500 to sponsor a craft tent and £1,000 for a drinks reception.

The truth is that there are numerous very worthy events and causes scrapping for a share of the public funding pot, and that amount of money available is shrinking.

Furthermore, as political events this week demonstrated only too clearly, we live in the highly uncertain time caused by the ongoing Brexit situation. That may well be deterring potential funding bodies from parting with their cash.

Eleanor, Duchess of Argyll is to be thanked for her efforts in these recent years to ensure the festival has been successful.

The Best of the West Festival has promoted Argyll in a hugely positive light and will be sorely missed. It would be a huge boost if some philanthropic organisation could find the means to keep it going.

**Community rallies  
to help fire victims**

It is hard for most of us to imagine what Teenie and David Wilson have been going through since their home and everything they owned were lost in a devastating fire last Tuesday.

However, Teenie and David are to be commended for their stoic response, as is the community in which they live. Their friends and neighbours have rallied superbly, with offers of accommodation and other support, and a fundraising event in the planning.

**We are lucky to have such  
good politicians**

This feels like an appropriate time of year to publicly thank our MSP Kate Forbes and MP Ian Blackford for their work on our behalf. Whether or not you agree with all or some or none of their party politics, we should think ourselves extremely fortunate in having two of the most active and hard-working individuals representing us. Similarly Andrew Baxter should be commended for his commitment and willingness to repeatedly speak up and speak out on our behalf locally. (I am sure there are other councillors working just as hard elsewhere in Highland, but in South Lochaber it appears to me that Andrew is largely working alone.)

My New Year resolution is to give them all more of my support. That doesn't just mean thanking them when they do something I agree with, it means letting them know what I think about the issues they are dealing with, whether for or against; asking questions, making the effort to find out more, and writing in support of their efforts when appropriate. They were elected by us and are paid by us through our taxes, and as with any 'employee', it is not acceptable to put them in post and leave them to get on with it for five years – they need and deserve our input, feedback, guidance and support, just as we rightly demand the same from them.

Their work impacts our lives in every way, all of the time, whether we like it or not, and whether we are interested in politics or not. I for one intend to show my support for what they do by engaging with the process a little more.

I have no doubt that they each have the best interests of our area in mind, and I would like to thank them all for their efforts on our behalf.

Joanne Matheson, Acharracle.

**Seil needs safer routes for  
pedestrians**

I read with sadness of the plight many parents and families trying to regularly navigate the single-lane 'motorway' by Balvicar on Seil.

The local community council has my sympathy and support. As they fight to avoid an incident it's worth noting that in the wider world the move is now towards a 20 mph limit in areas frequented by pedestrians. The roads here provide passage for vehicular and pedestrian traffic but it seems that an accident has been avoided so far because pedestrians have simply been scared off. And understandably so, for what responsible parent

## YOUR PICTURES



**We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here, send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street, Fort William.**

would send their kids on to a motorway every day. If it was a central belt city this happened in the family would no doubt be investigated by social services.

And so the argument becomes about the one trip the locals have no choice but to force their children to make from bus stops to home or school.

But that neatly skips over the main issue of providing safe island routes for pedestrians now cars are so fast and furious none can use the road.

There are a number of old church paths on Seil which have been gradually falling into disrepair. Reinstatement and extension of these would free locals from the tyranny of the road while providing a further draw for tourists.

It would require support and coordination from the local council, local landowners and the community council.

It could draw on funding from a variety of sources such as the lottery. It should be accompanied by a pro-pedestrian attitude by the council which ensures pedestrians or cycle based



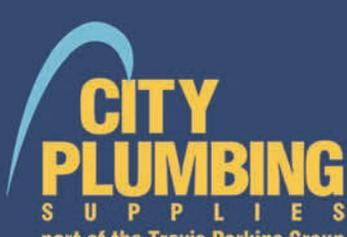
# WINTER SALE

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This week's image was emailed in by Chris Whitelaw, who said: 'This is one of my favourite photographs as the colours and scenery are stunning. It was taken near Benderloch.'

traffic is provided for when roads are created or maintained.

Seil is a beautiful island much loved by locals. However, becoming a traffic island is another matter altogether and something your article of December 21 suggests to me the local council should be doing more to help the community council develop and implement a strategy for dealing with.

And in the meantime and more tactically, anything that any local body can do to safeguard kids should be a priority. The police argument

that nothing need be done till an accident happens is clearly flawed. Where children are concerned the precautionary principle should apply.

**Martin Goldie, Balvicar Cottages.**

## Letter shows contempt for Scotland

I refer to the letter in the Oban Times and Lochaber Times dated December 13 from Andrew Green.

He refers to the European referendum and states that of the total 3.9 million residents registered to vote in Scotland, only 62 per cent voted remain and in his opinion this is hardly a convincing endorsement to remain in the European Union if you take into account the 26 per cent who voted to leave and the 31 per cent who decided to abstain.

Whether people choose to vote remain, leave or abstain from voting is entirely up to them. That is their democratic right. We live under a majoritarian system. The writer's other comments show utter contempt for Scotland's potential as an independent country.

The Conservatives are tearing themselves apart over Brexit. In 2014, we were told by unionists of all colours that an independent Scotland would not be allowed into the European Union. They have now reversed that argument. The one thing that we can be sure of is the reality that if the UK leaves without a deal, other countries will not hold fire on their present agreements to allow the UK to make good on what we lose leaving Europe.

On leaving Europe, no country seeing the disarray in the UK will agree to give the UK advantages of EU membership without obligations. The money men will not suffer half as much as those at the other end of the scale, including the working poor.

Anna Soubry, Conservative MP, attacked 'ideologically driven' colleagues with 'gold-plated pensions and inherited wealth' for ignoring the 'reality' of Brexit. She also confirmed that in private conversations those same Tories accepted that hundreds of thousands of jobs will be lost but that it was worth it for Brexit.

Despite this, some people still think that Scotland should continue to be a minor player in the shambles which is Westminster politics. It is high time that the Scottish Government called an independence referendum to enable Scotland to take its place along with all other independent nations in Europe.

**Bill Clark, Tomonie.**

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



*Ged tha ùpraidhean an t-saoghail a' cumail dhaoine air bheagan tàmh, Chan urrainn mi gun bhith smaointinn air na laoisg a chaill an nàire...*

Sin mar a dh'fhosgail fear de na piosan bàrdachd as ainmeile aig Dòmhnall (nan Òran) MacLeòid, à Gleann Dail an Eilein Sgitheanaich, *Rann do Dh'Èildearan an Lòin Mhòr*.

Choisich Dòmhnall mu sheachd mìle a choinneachadh le èildearan na h-eaglaise is e air baisteadh iarraidh dha aon de chuid chloinne. Chaidh am baisteadh a dhiùltadh 's e air fhàgail air Dòmhnall gum biodh e a' gabhail drama, ri fealla-dhà, agus "gun leugh thu 'n Cuairtear air an t-Sàbaid".

Air a shlighe thàmailteach dhachaigh chuir Dòmhnall ceithir rannan deug leamh ri chèile, a' dearbhadh fìor eòlas air sgeulachdan agus feallsanachd a' Bhiobaill anns na casaidean ceilge a bha e a' cur às leth nan èildearan a "bha nan suidh' an cathair binn" air.

Thàinig faclan Dhòmhnail nam inntinn às ùr is mi ag èisteachd ris a' ghoileam gun chrìch mu Bhrexit, is mise mar na milleanan eile, tha mi 'n dùil, air fàs cho searbh agus

cho tàmailteach mu shuidheachadh ar dùthcha. Saoilidh mi gun robh Dòmhnall nan Òran air a bhith pailt cho geur na chronachadh air a' mhàirnealachd agus an dith cuimse a dh'fhàg sinn cho mì-chinnteach air na tha 'n dàn nuair a dhealaicheas Breatann ris an Aonadh Eòrpach.

Ach theagamh gum bheil leamhachas le saoghal poilitigs a' dol nas fharsainge na Brexit oir tha an earbsa a tha luchd-bhòtaidh a' cur ann an tagraiche poilitigeach mar chùmhnt eatarra air a bonntachadh air geallaidhean, agus ma 's e rud eadar-dhealaichte a thig tha fhios gur còir cothrom a bhith aig neach-taice nochdadh am bheil e riaraichte. A dh'aindeoin cho searbh 's a tha daoine air fàs den chuspair saoilidh mi gum bheil a' mhòr-chuid mothachail gum bheil brìgh cùmhnt dheireannaich Brexit cho cudromach ri dad a bha riamh air aire Phàrlamaid Bhreatainn, agus aig àm sgriobhaidh seo chan eil cus dòchais gun soirbhich le moladh a' Phrìomhaire.

Mura tèid leatha bidh chun a-màireach aice airson tilleadh chun na Pàrlamaid le moladh eile.

Chan eil luach aig gealladh, beag neo mòr, chun an coileanar e! A dh'aindeoin rabhaidhean bho ionadan mheidigeach innse mura tèid againn air frithealadh aig àm aontaichte tha fhathast mòran nach eil a' dèanamh sin agus iad ag àicheadh cothrom cobhair dha daoine eile.

Saoilidh mi gum bheil Calmac ceart bho seo a-mach cosgais deich not a chur air luchd-siubhail chàraichean mura leig iad fios nach tèid aca air nochdadh aig àm aontaichte.

By the time you read this MPs will have voted on Theresa May's proposed Brexit deal, and if she has lost she must present an alternative plan by tomorrow.

While it was unlikely that any proposal would satisfy both sides of the argument, Mrs May has struggled to convince either.

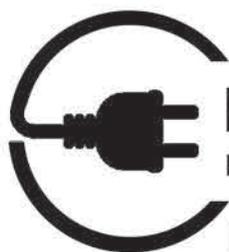
Someone always suffers from broken promises, whether in politics, attending medical appointments as arranged, or having your car at a ferry port on time.

**Ailean Caimbeul**  
(Allan Campbell)  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

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OT

# DISTRICT NEWS

## TAYNUILT

Taynuilt Gaelic Choir will be back up and running tonight (Thursday January 17) and new members will be 'assured of a warm welcome'.

Practice will take place in Taynuilt's Sports Pavilion, starting from 7.30pm.

■ Musicians will be jamming in Taynuilt Sports Pavilion on Monday January 21. The event will start at 6.30pm with everyone welcome to attend.

The event poster reads: 'If you'd like to join us to play and/or learn drums and percussion, you are most welcome.'

'Or bring along another instrument to weave in and around the beat: harmonica, voice, xylophone, whatever gives you pleasure.'

## MULL

The Keel Row in Fionnphort will be hosting a Burns Supper on January 26 from 7pm.

The event promises to be an evening of good company, fun, toasts and music that will commemorate Scotland's national bard in fine style.

The meal costs £23 per person and there are limited spaces available, so early booking is advised.

## CRANLARICH

Scottish Water has announced that it will be upgrading 222 meters of pipe work in the Crianlarich area along Station Road.

The £120,000 investment comes after calls from Stirling MSP Bruce Crawford for a permanent solution to be sought following repeated bursts of the water main leaving many properties without supply.

It is hoped that this work will reduce the risk of further disruption by burst mains.

## LOCHEARNHEAD

Scottish Water has confirmed that flooding on the road through Lochearnhead at the end of last year was due to a build-up of debris,

which has now been removed. The company was responding to Bruce Crawford MSP, who was contacted by concerned constituents.

## RUM

Kinloch Castle Friends' Association has launched a crowdfunding appeal to help pay for ongoing costs.

The campaign, which was set to go live this week, is promised to have 'excellent rewards to tempt people'.

To find out more, visit [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/save-Kinloch-castle-isle-of-rum](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/save-Kinloch-castle-isle-of-rum)

## WESTERN ISLES

A Western Isles MSP has hit out at 'unjustifiable' delivery surcharges islanders have to face.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan criticised the charges after research showed consumers in his constituent continue to pay over the odds.

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has estimated that consumers in the Western Isles paid £2.66 million in delivery surcharges over the course of 2018. This is a near five per cent increase from 2017 where SPICe estimated the cost of delivery surcharges as £2.54 million.

Dr Allan said: 'Islanders rely on being able to purchase items online that we cannot easily pick up locally.'

'However, the Western Isles continues to be one of the worst places affected by retailers setting arbitrary and unjustifiable delivery surcharges.'

In response to the issue, the Scottish Government has launched an action plan to tackle the charges.

This includes developing a fair delivery charges map where consumers will be able to compare and track delivery costs.

A crowdsourcing website where customer experiences of unfair deliveries can be shared will also be developed.

## ISLAY

A number of free defibrillator training sessions will be taking place in



Pictured from left to right are Mrs M Mackenzie (RME Department), Lorna Nicol (Western Isles Women's Aid), Mary Watt (manager of Western Isles Women's Aid), Abby-Jo Morrison, Mary Jane Morrison, Scott MacLennan, Lee MacLean, John MacRae and Dr F Murray (rector).

## Women's Aid lands cash windfall

Western Isles Women's Aid received a £3,000 cheque from young philanthropists. The money was raised by this year's Nicolson Institute's Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) winning team.

The £3,000 is 'a very welcome boost' for the women's

aid and 'great recognition of the team's hard work and commitment'.

YPI is an active citizenship programme that raises awareness among young people about philanthropy and their local community.

Islay this month. The training will be free of charge and a certificate will be given to all those who attend.

Each slot will be 90 minutes with a maximum of eight people taking part per sitting.

The first set of sessions will be at the RNLI building at Port Askaig on Friday January 18. They will take place at 10am, noon, 2pm and 4pm.

There will also be training at Bowmore Fire Station on Saturday January 19 at 10am, noon, 2pm and 4pm. More sessions will be held in Port Mor on Sunday January 20.

However, starting times are to be confirmed as this will be dependent on demand.

## SKYE

A group of multi-award-winning boutique hotels on Skye has become the first hospitality provider in the Hebridean islands to sign up to the UK's real Living Wage and says its move will help post-Brexit recruitment of staff in one of Europe's most popular tourist destinations.

Sonas Hospitality has agreed to pay employees at least £9 an hour – the figure set by the Living Wage Foundation based on actual living costs for workers outside London.

'Staff in the hospitality business work very hard and we believe each one should be valued and treated fairly,'

said Anne Gracie Gunn, who heads the group which owns Duisdale and Toravaig House on Sleat and Skeabost House near Portree. 'All are important links in the visitor experience chain.'

Around two-thirds of Sonas' staff on Sleat and 50 per cent at Skeabost are not local. The company employs just under 80 at peak season with 48 all year round.

Mrs Gracie Gunn added: 'Adoption of the real Living Wage shows we invest in our staff as well as our hotels' infrastructure and helps demonstrate to overseas and UK workers that, no matter what happens after Brexit, there is decent money to be made in the hotels industry.'

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A tourist information centre in South Uist will reopen in April.

## Tourist centre opens on South Uist

A tourist information centre in Lochboisdale will reopen as Uist Gifts and Info this year.

The gift shop will open in April 2019 following the closure of the VisitScotland service in 2017.

Stòras Uibhist secured the necessary £25,175 funding from the Scottish Land Fund to purchase the building on behalf of the community.

To date, Uist Gifts and Info has been operating an online shop and this opportunity will enable them to expand their range of gifts and ser-

vices, and establish a much-needed facility in Lochboisdale village.

Donnie Steele of Uist Gifts and Info said: '[We] aim to bring a new look to the former tourist office at Lochboisdale. We will sell souvenirs, gifts and clothing from the Isles, provide tourist info services along similar lines to our online sites, SouthUist.com, Isleofsouthuist and online shop uistgifts.'

'We will work with local artisans and businesses to provide services and local gifts online and in the shop.'



Anne Gracie Gunn, her daughter Jennifer who is general manager of Sonas Hotels, and Duisdale House Hotel manager Morag Macdonald.



Nia with mum Kirstin, dad Derek and brothers Calum, left, and Evan. 06\_a02NewYearBaby\_Robertson02

## New Year bundle of joy

There must have been few babies born sooner after the bells in Scotland than a wee Inveraray bundle of joy born early on New Year's Day.

Big brothers Evan and Calum have a new wee sister, and they clearly dote on her.

Nia Annie-Rose Robertson was the first arrival of 2019 at Paisley's Royal Alexandra Hospital, born at 1.10am on New Year's Day.

Born three weeks early after what mum Kirstin describes as a 'tricky' pregnancy, Nia weighed in at 6lb 15oz at birth, with both mum and baby doing well.

Kirstin and her firefighter husband Derek, from Inveraray, are delighted with their new arrival. Nia's big brothers Evan, eight, and Calum, four, are excited at the new addition to the family. Evan said, succinctly: 'She's really nice and cute.'

Kirstin explained the origins of her new daughter's name. 'Nia has Welsh and Irish origins and means brightness. It comes from a Welsh version of the fairy tale Tir na n'Og 'land of youth'.'

She continued: 'Nia also has the name Annie after her late great-grandmother Annie MacIver.'

A planning manager for the NHS, Kirstin said: 'It is a perfect way to start the new year. Derek and I are very grateful to the Mid Argyll midwives especially Karen McAlpine, as well as Dr Murphy and everyone at the RAH.'

'They've all been so good to us.'

## At random

MARTIN LAING

[mllaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mllaing@obantimes.co.uk)



### Punish the vandals

We report this week on the disgusting behaviour of vandals who smashed a memorial bench on the Esplanade during the New Year celebrations.

What a shocking thing to do.

David Hobbs had the bench installed as a tribute to his late wife, Amnuai. Mr Hobbs told us she would want him to forgive those who perpetrated such a heartless act.

I have to confess that I am much less inclined to take that point of view.

These people behaved appallingly and deserve to be punished. What they did was not only the cause of much upset and scandal, it was also a criminal act.

We are told the police in Oban are studying CCTV footage in an attempt to identify the culprits. I wish them well and would urge anyone who has any information to pass it on to the authorities. I hope these vandals are jailed.

And I give credit to Gael Force Fusion, who repaired it for free.

### Town trash

Rubbish! It is a perennial problem, it seems.

I've lost count of the number of people who have approached me in recent weeks to complain about the amount of litter blighting Oban town centre.

Now, I'll be the first to make allowances for the holiday period and the fact that our sterling council staff charged with clearing up behind us are entitled to their time off.

However, it is now more than two weeks since we all went back to work and the town is still awash with rubbish.

What's more, I have been used to seeing the cleansing staff most mornings as I walk through the town on my way to work but I have not seen anyone operating the mechanical road sweeper or manually picking up litter for weeks now.

What is happening? Has Argyll and Bute Council suffered a loss of staff or have the workers been reassigned to other duties?

It might not be the tourist season but Oban is looking a mess and the residents deserve better.

### What do you think?

Write to me at [mllaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mllaing@obantimes.co.uk) or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB, or call 01631 568021.

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# OUTDOORS

## Applications sought for rural grant funds

The Prince's Countryside Fund is open for grant applications until February 21. The fund gives out grants twice a year, and projects in rural areas across the UK can apply for funding of up to £50,000 in the spring round of funding.

Set up in 2010 by the Prince of Wales, the charity aims to improve the prospects for rural communities and farm businesses. Every year the fund gives out more than £1 million and can support projects for up to three years.

The fund aims to support projects that achieve the following:

■ **Sustaining rural communities:**

Projects that deliver sustainable rural assets, businesses and services that keep isolated communities together and develop a more sustainable rural economy, or provide advice and new skills and business training that benefit the local economy.

■ **Improving the prospects of viability for farm and rural businesses:**

Projects that focus on developing stronger, more sustainable farm businesses and other rural enterprises with the aim of halting the decline of the rural economy, or that encourage local food production and short supply chains, that facilitate knowledge transfer such as farmer networks, or that provide new skills and training for rural and agricultural benefit.

■ **Supporting aid delivery in emergency and building resilience:**

Projects that support farm businesses, rural businesses and communities to plan for and recover from natural disasters such as flooding or animal disease and build resilience.

Claire Saunders, director of the fund said: 'The 550 projects put forward to our Recharging Rural research last summer demonstrated the extraordinary breadth of ideas that communities use to build their resilience, many of which are grant can support.'

To find out more and apply, visit [www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/grants](http://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/grants)

# Council is challenged over iconic Glen Etive

Mountaineers have challenged The Highland Council on its stewardship of one of Scotland's most scenic and iconic glens.

Glen Etive is a National Scenic Area, and a Wild Land Area, famously featuring in a James Bond movie and loved by thousands of Scots and visitors to the country.

But, according to Mountaineering Scotland, it currently faces the prospect of no fewer than seven hydro power construction schemes, each of which involves new road construction, bridge-building, trench digging, cement-pouring and power cabling, for a relatively low power output.

Stuart Younie, chief executive of Mountaineering Scotland, said: 'We are challenging The Highland Council on its stewardship of Glen Etive and call for the planning department to defend this much-loved landscape.'

Mr Younie stressed that it was essential to look at the whole picture of development in the glen rather than treating each application in isolation.

Davie Black, access and conservation officer for Mountaineering Scotland said that the big picture in Glen Etive would include a new three-wire overhead grid connection offered by SSE to the developer.

He said: 'This is ironic as SSE has recently been claiming green credentials by proposing to underground powerlines in the Nethy Bridge/Boat of Garten area. If it can be done there, then the criteria apply equally here in a National Scenic Area with its qualities of wild land.'

Mr Younie added: 'Wild land is fragile and requires understanding of what can damage its qualities for generations to come, and it needs a commitment to protect those qualities. The Highland Council is now holding this future in its hands and we urge the council to take the steps needed to look after it.'

He said figures show that small-scale hydro-power proposals have a 91 per cent success rate with Highland Council planners.

Mr Younie added: 'This is despite the increasing complaints of poorly constructed and re-



Glen Etive is threatened by development. Photograph by Tim Parkin (onlandscape.co.uk)

stored access tracks, intake weir pipework and bare concrete facings. We have already written to The Highland Council planning department voicing our concerns about the legacy of intrusive tracks, and their reply confirmed they do not have the resources available to monitor every development, and instead rely on local people and other organisations to alert them to any alleged breaches of planning conditions.

'If developments are to be given permission in such sensitive areas that permission should only be given where proper monitoring and safeguards are in place.'

'If either The Highland Council or the Scottish Government want to be taken at all seriously as stewards of some of Scotland's most iconic scenery, they must raise their game.'

Mountaineering Scotland said it supports the Scottish Government's drive to increase

the capacity for producing energy from renewable sources, but does not believe it has to be at the cost of the landscape, which makes a huge contribution to our economy as well as to health and wellbeing.

Mr Black added: 'Small-scale hydropower schemes should be relatively benign forms of renewable energy generation, but do not come free from environmental costs. If not carefully designed, the construction footprint and visual legacy in areas of natural beauty and wildness can greatly outweigh the power generation produced by each scheme.'

'Two of the schemes were withdrawn due to concerns over their impacts, but have been recently resubmitted with modifications. Do the schemes that lie in the Wild Land Area really need a new track to just clean the intake weir? It should be simple enough to walk in from the existing track.'

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## This week's walks



Golden eagles will be among the species to benefit from the new high altitude forest.

### High-altitude forest aims to save rare trees

A new high-altitude forest of 10,000 rare mountain trees supporting wildlife, including golden eagles and mountain hares, is to be planted near Loch Ness by Trees for Life next spring.

The waist-high trees form a unique and important wildlife-rich habitat called montane scrub. This should be common between woodlands and open hilltops but has now almost disappeared from Scotland, largely due to grazing pressure from sheep and high deer numbers.

The project involves collecting seeds from trees such as dwarf birch and downy willow on precipitous mountain ledges and rocky crags, sometimes with the help of qualified climbers.

Planting the woodland itself will be challenging because the location – at Beinn Bhan on the charity's Dundreggan Conservation Estate in Glenmoriston – lies at more than 500 metres above sea level.

But the site is perfect for the tough small trees – known as 'montane' species because they can grow near mountain summits – despite high winds and dramatic temperature changes.

'This exciting initiative will address the sad loss of these special wee trees, which form a vital but vanishing part of Scotland's woodlands, while creating a home for golden eagle, black and red grouse, ring ouzel and mountain hare. We're urging members of the public to support this project and help make it happen,' said Steve Micklewright, Trees for Life's chief executive.

Trees for Life has launched a fundraising appeal to raise £20,000 to help create the new upland forest.

As well as asking for help from the public, Trees for Life has been awarded a grant by Forestry Commission Scotland in support of the new forest.

Doug Gilbert, Trees for Life's op-

erations manager at Dundreggan, said: 'We've made maximum use of the forestry grant aid, but to create a bigger, richer forest environment we need the public's support.'

The conservation charity has already begun growing tree seeds it has collected from Glen Affric but to boost genetic diversity for stronger trees that are resistant to disease, it needs to do more. Expert climbers have to brave difficult terrain and rocky outcrops to collect cuttings from the rare species.

Trees for Life's volunteers will begin planting the new woodland at Beinn Bhan – the White Mountain – this spring.

Donations to Trees for Life's Beinn Bhan forest appeal will enable the charity to collect seed and cuttings from the rare montane trees, and then grow these species in its tree nursery at Dundreggan for planting in the new woodland.

Go to [www.treesforlife.org.uk/](http://www.treesforlife.org.uk/) appeal or call 01309 691292.

#### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at [www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk). Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on [info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](mailto:info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk)

#### Saturday January 19: Ben Vane, Loch Lomond

This is an interesting Munro with an easy walk in but followed by a steep climb and some rocky steps. There are fine views across to Ben Vorlich and the Arrochar hills.

Start at the large CP on the E side of the A82 at NN323098, close to the Inveruglas power station.

Take the path by the roadside SSW and turn W just before Inveruglas Water. Pass under the railway bridge and follow the track to a junction at NN298096. Trend SW for 500m and then take a path at NN295094 which, at first indistinct, leads to a well-defined and eroded path generally NW to the summit of Ben Vane. Care will be needed with a few rocky steps. There is an interesting cave formed by a large overhanging rock at NN286095 which would afford some shelter in bad weather.

Return from the summit by the same route to the CP.

Grade: S; distance: 15km; height to climb: 970m; map(s): LR56, EX364, OL39. Meet at Glencoe village car park at 8.30am, for start of walk at 9.45am. Leader: Nigel Clark 07555 812970.

#### Thursday January 24: Ben Laga and Meall nan Each, Loch Sunart

Two small craggy hills, surrounded by delightful lochans, with great views over Loch Sunart.

Start at the CP on the B8007 at NM650606. Cross the road and head N up through a short section of woodland on to the open hillside. Continue N following the broad ridge, rocky in places, to the summit of Ben Laga 512m. Descend NW to visit the largest lochan, then E to the four smaller ones.

Descend NW to the head of Loch Laga. Cross the two burns feeding into the loch, cross a track near a junction, then head NW uphill on the right side of the second burn and

continue to the summit of Meall nan Each, 490m. Turn back S, over Leac an Fhithleir, then down an ill-defined and undulating ridge to reach Lochan a'Chrom-leathaid. A new fence has been erected here enclosing land which has been planted with native trees. Pass through the gate at NM628623 and continue S over Leac an Tuairneir and down its undulating S ridge to the fence at NM627611.

Turn E and descend the flank on a rough track to exit the planted area at a gate, and continue to the B8007 at the settlement of Laga. Head E on the road back to the start.

Grade: M+; distance: 12km; height to climb: 763m; map(s): LR40, EX390. Meet at Corran Ferry slip for 8.45am sailing, for start of walk at 10am. Leader: Sally Cameron 07810 464994 or 01631 740391.

#### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club). If anyone would like to go out on the walk please contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevishillwalking.club.

#### Sunday January 20: Creach Bheinn, Loch Creran

A useful hilltrack gives easy access to this hill, a fine viewpoint above Loch Creran. The return route down the E ridge leads into a remote coire.

Start on the minor road just N of Druimavuic, NN009451, where parking is available. Take the track through the woods past Druimavuic House to the open hillside. The track now continues uphill, following the line of the Allt Buidhe and eventually reaches the bealach at the head of Coire Buidhe.

Turn SW, and continue over Creag na Cathaig, 662m. Climb steeply up to a summit at 804m. The main summit of Creach Bheinn lies about 1km to the SW. Head SSE for 430m to a tiny ring contour on a small summit at NN025418. Turn E and descend a steep ridge, curving NE to about 600m altitude. Turn N into the coire and contour around it to reach the col SW of Creag na Cathaig, NN035432. Head N down into Coire Buidhe, cross the Allt Buidhe where convenient and regain the track back to Druimavuic.

13km, 850m ascent; both Corbetts 14km, 1220 ascent. Suggested and coordinated by John Burton.

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Stramash outdoor nursery offers high quality care and learning environments via its outdoor nurseries and schools programmes in Oban, Fort William, Elgin and Inverness.

Experienced practitioners provide nurturing environments which inspire children to become resilient, empathetic and achieve in harmony with the natural world, seasons and climate. Stewardship of nature and learning through self-directed play are at the heart of life in the Stramash community.

Fort William: with Ben Nevis and Inverlochy Castle providing the backdrop to this inspiring and engaging play space, children enjoy acres of grassy fields and woods to explore. Cosy spaces are provided by 'The Castles' – hand-built wooden buildings at the heart of the site.

Oban: truly the finest views of any outdoor nursery, Ganavan's clifftop location, woodland and lower fields offer Oban nursery children the childhood we all dreamed of, with 'The Cabins' providing comfort and a nurturing space to be.



This is the time of year when all across the Scotland our wee ones are getting ready to go into **nursery and take that first big step on the path of learning.**

Early learning and childcare – the title now given to nursery – is now enrolling and the dates can vary within all different council areas, so don't get caught out!

Children born between March 1, 2016, and February 28, 2017, are entitled to a funded early learning and childcare place with starts from August 2019.

In Argyll and Bute, enrolment is during the week beginning March 4; for Highland Council, enrolment is week February 28-March 1; and in the Western Isles it is the week starting

January 28 but in Western Isles there are a couple of exceptions, so please check the council website for more details.

Full details are available on all council websites, including forms to download.

Early learning and childcare is free to parents and is funded via the Scottish Government.

Children three to four years old can get up to 600 hours of funded early learning and childcare a year; around 16 hours a week in term time.

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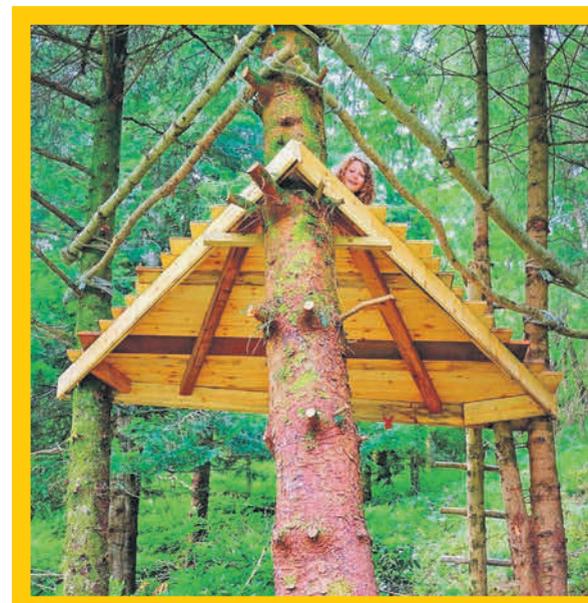
1st Steps Nursery is a safe, happy, caring and stimulating environment, where all the staff want the best for the children and parents.

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In the established mature garden children can play, be active and grow their own plants, fruit and vegetables. Children are then able to prepare some of their own produce and taste it.

1st Steps Nursery is committed to providing nutritious healthy meals for children in a setting that allows them to share meal times together, including breakfast, lunch and tea daily.



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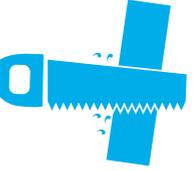
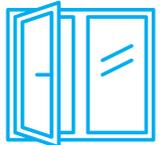
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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER



Panto time in Taynuilt.

## Curtain up on Taynuilt panto

After months of rehearsals, the curtain rises on Taynuilt's pantomime tonight (Thursday January 17).

There Was An Old Woman opens at Taynuilt Village Hall tonight at 7.30pm with further performances tomorrow (Friday) at 7.30pm and on Saturday at 1.30pm.

Stage manager Carol Thomson said: 'We have got singers, fabulous musicians and a lovely set. We are blessed with a lot of talent in the village. It is all down to

the actors now. It has a good mixed cast of adults and children, which is great, and we have everything a pantomime has. We have baddies, we have comedy, everything.'

The panto, directed by Vivienne Price, has been organised by Taynuilt and District Dramatic Society.

Gary and Finlay Brown are the pantomime dames. Also included in the cast are Angela McDougall, Aisling Duncan, Lucinda Gray, Tim

Continued on page 32.



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## Bookends welcomes return of storyteller Jess

Traditional storyteller Jess Smith returns to Benderloch on Saturday, January 19, at the first of Bookends' 2019 pop-up events in The Victory Hall.

Jess, who grew up as part of a travelling family, was one of Bookends featured authors from the 2018 festival and will be back at the hall from 7-9pm for a showing of award-winning film *A Sense of Identity*, and to tell a few more of her tales and sing more songs. Entry is free.

Other pop-up dates for 2019 so far include Tuesday February 12, Monday March



Jess Smith will be in Benderloch on Saturday.

18 and Wednesday April 17.

## Rock up to bookbinding workshops at weekend

Oban's Rockfield Centre has two workshops on offer this Saturday, January 19.

The first is from 10am to noon and teaches Japanese-style stab-stitch bookbinding showing how to make beautiful notebooks. The workshop is suitable for 16s and over, no experience necessary. The cost is £18.

There will be more book-binding techniques in a second workshop all about making a junk journal, from 2-4pm. The cost is again £18. Anyone taking part can bring along old Christmas, birthday or anniversary cards to use.

To book visit [therockfield-centre.org.uk](http://therockfield-centre.org.uk)

# Gary Innes single on digital release

Swan Song is the new single from award-winning musician Gary Innes, and is released digitally tomorrow (Friday January 18).

Featuring vocals by Karen Matheson, of Capercaillie, the new single is an ode to a number of Gary's friends who have died.

Gary said: 'I had the privilege of getting to spend time with some very close friends towards the end of their lives and during these times we spoke at great length about the passing of time and how they were struggling with the thought of being taken before they were ready to go.'

'They asked me to play their swan song for them at their respective funerals and this is where the idea for this single came from. It's incredibly close to my heart and having Karen's vocals on it has really given it the depth I was looking for.'



'It was an honour to know and learn from these individuals and I hope I did their swan song the justice it deserves.'

Swan Song is a preview to Gary's upcoming album, *Imminent*, which will be

officially released on Friday February 15. An album packed full of self-penned tunes and songs, *Imminent* is a follow-up to Gary's 2017 album *ERA* that was released to critical acclaim, with Tim Carroll writing: 'Era is more

Gary's new single *Swan Song* will be released digitally tomorrow.

than one man's reflection, it's a view into the world of a master at work.'

A preview performance of *Imminent* will also take place at Celtic Connections on Saturday, January 19.

*Swan Song* features Karen Matheson (vocals), Gary Innes (accordion), Ali Hutton (guitar), Angus Lyon (piano), Ewen Henderson (fiddle), Steve Byrnes (bouzouki) and James Lindsay (double bass).

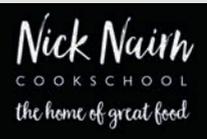
Gary was born in Spean Bridge and is a founding member of award-winning trad group *Mànran*. He is also the presenter of BBC Radio Scotland's longest running music programme, *Take the Floor*.

Visit [www.garyinnes.com](http://www.garyinnes.com)

# competitions

## WIN

A COOKING EXPERIENCE WITH NICK NAIRN



Scottish Field have teamed up with the Nick Nairn Cook School to offer two lucky readers the chance to win a 'Just You & Nick' one day cooking experience at the school at Port of Menteith. Winners will receive a telephone consultation with Nick to help design a bespoke menu. They will have the school and Nick to themselves for the entire day. Nick will teach them how to cook their menu and join them to eat and drink.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: **Where is the Nick Nairn Cook School?**

Prize must be taken in 2019. Transport is not included. Any additional costs are not covered by the prize.

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 January 2019.

Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of **Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve Whisky**.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words 'OPT IN' on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyvex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.

## WIN

AN EPICUREAN INDULGENCE AT THE PEAT INN FOR TWO PEOPLE (WORTH £355)



Relax in one of eight luxury suites before heading to the restaurant for a beautifully crafted six course tasting menu. Let us serve you breakfast the next morning before you enjoy a day in the Kingdom. The Peat Inn, by St Andrews, is a 5-star restaurant with rooms and Michelin Star Chef Proprietor, Geoffrey Smeddle, uses the finest Scottish ingredients to create delicious and contemporary cuisine.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: **How many suites does The Peat Inn have?**

Valid Tues - Thurs, subject to availability, based on 2 people sharing a room. Drinks not included. Must be taken by 31 May 2019.

## WIN AN OVERNIGHT STAY IN A ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT AND A THREE COURSE MEAL IN KYLOE FOR TWO, WORTH £450



Win a luxurious stay in The Rutland Hotel's 5-star apartments with dinner for two in the award-winning *Kyloe Restaurant & Grill*. Located in the heart of Edinburgh, just a step from Princes Street, The Rutland Hotel oozes luxury and style making it the perfect stayover in Scotland's capital. Also included is a three course meal from *Kyloe*, offering some of the world's most ethical beef from *Hardiesmill Farm* in the Scottish Borders and delicious in-house dry aged steaks.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: **Where do Kyloe source their ethical beef from?**

Must be booked in advance. Subject to availability. Prize cannot be part redeemed and must be used during one stay. Prize includes a 1 night stay in a luxury 5 star, self-catering apartment and a 3 course meal in *Kyloe* for 2 people. Drinks are not included.

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 28 February 2019. Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of **Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve Whisky**.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words 'OPT IN' on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyvex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.

# Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



The first weekend of Celtic Connections is upon us and what a weekend it is shaping up to be.

Tonight, the curtains will open on the festival with a concert in the Royal Concert Hall called Syne of the Times which inaugurates 2019's theme of passing tradition between generations.

Sixty to 70 talented young musicians, selected from the 45 Fèisean now held annually around Scotland, will take part in this concert alongside established traditional musicians.

Opening nights at Celtic Connections are usually spectacular, and this one looks to be no different.

## Friday night at Celtic Connections

The following evening, there are a whole host of interesting events.

I am greatly looking forward to the Tìree Music Festival's 10th anniversary evening which I wrote about last week; but also sad to be missing a number of events



on at the same time: namely the Marie Fielding Trio in concert in the National Piping Centre which begins at 7.30pm; Seinn Air a' Phìob, a concert in the MacKintosh Church at 7.30pm presented by The Big Music Society, featuring Margaret Stewart,

Ingrid Henderson, Allan MacDonald, Mairi MacInnes and Ewen Henderson; Brìghde Chaimbeul in concert in St Andrews in the Square; and Hamish Napier's The Railway, with Claire Hastings in the Royal Concert Hall at 8pm.

## Saturday night at Celtic Connections

With such a huge programme of fantastic events on throughout the festival, it is inevitable that unmissable concerts often end up on

Allan Henderson plays music from his 'formative playlist' this Saturday in the Mitchell Theatre as part of Celtic Connections.

the same night. This, in my opinion, has very much been the case this coming Saturday night where three much loved Highland performers are playing in different venues on the same evening.

Allan Henderson has come up with a very interesting concept for his concert, The Formative Playlist, wherein the house band act as a giant MP3 player set to 'shuffle' and perform, at random, all of the music that inspired Allan in his formative years.

Music from the likes of Wolfstone, Runrig, Ossian, and the Waterboys will be performed by Breabach, Alec Dalglish from Skerryvore, Ross Wilson from Tide Lines, and James MacKintosh, as well as Allan himself, no doubt keeping the audience entertained with stories throughout. This takes place in the Mitchell Theatre at 7.30pm.

Meanwhile, down the road in the Drygate Brewery, Gary Innes will be launching his latest album, Imminent, which I wrote about in this article last week. Special guests for the occasion are Kim Carnie, Ali Hutton, Steve Byrnes, Hamish Napier, Ewen Henderson, and Connal MacDonagh.

On the same night, at the same time, Kathleen MacInnes is also in concert in the Royal Concert Hall's new auditorium alongside Amiina, the string section who play with Icelandic band Sigur Ros. I really have no idea what concert to attend that night!

And, to make the decision more difficult, Elephant Sessions and the Blue Rose Code are also in action in separate concerts that evening. A very typical Celtic Connections quandary!

More details of all Celtic Connections gig are available at [www.celticconnections.com](http://www.celticconnections.com)

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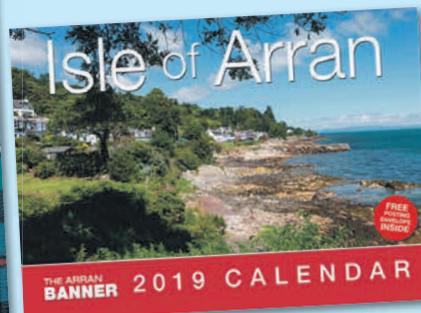
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# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 17 AM FAOILLEACH THURSDAY 17 JANUARY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 O Mo Dhùthaich (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 Bus Ghlaschu (rpt)  
21.00 Air a' Chanàil (rpt)  
21.55 Na Trads – Shooglenifty (rpt)  
22.30 **UR | NEW:** Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail  
23.15 **UR | NEW:** Belladrum Highlights 2018  
23.20 Dhan Uisge (Loch Coruisik) (rpt)  
23.30 Mach a Seo (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 18 AM FAOILLEACH FRIDAY 18 JANUARY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.35 Machair (rpt)  
19.00 An Là – News  
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
19.30 Fianais (rpt)  
20.00 Ceòlraidh (rpt)  
20.30 Puirt-adhair (rpt)  
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Steelmen  
22.00 An Klondike (rpt)  
22.50 Dhan Uisge (Easdale) (rpt)  
23.00 Doolin (rpt)  
23.45 Pìobairean Bhòrnis (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 19 AM FAOILLEACH SATURDAY 19 JANUARY

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
17.45 An Là – News  
18.00 As an Eilean (rpt)  
19.35 Fianais (rpt)  
20.05 Machair (rpt)  
20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)  
21.00 Port S4 (rpt)

22.00 Ceòlhor @ Piping Live! (rpt)  
22.30 **UR | NEW:** Nochd S2  
23.00 Steelmen (rpt)  
24.00 Niteworks: Obair Oidhche (rpt)

### DIDÒMHNAICH 20 AM FAOILLEACH SUNDAY 20 JANUARY

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.15 An Là – News  
18.30 Seachd Là – News Review  
19.30 Alleluia (rpt)  
20.00 Bus Ghlaschu (rpt)  
20.30 Leugh Mi (rpt)  
21.00 Scotstar: Teasairginn Eiginneach (rpt)  
21.45 Sgeul Slàinte (rpt)  
22.00 Port S4 (rpt)  
23.00 An Klondike (rpt)  
23.55 **UR | NEW:** Belladrum Highlights 2018 (rpt)

### DILUAIN 21 AM FAOILLEACH MONDAY 21 JANUARY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Eileanan Fraoich – Muile (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 Puirt-adhair (rpt)  
21.00 Trusadh – Falt (rpt)  
22.00 **UR | NEW:** TradFest  
22.30 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)  
23.30 Nochd S2 (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 22 AM FAOILLEACH TUESDAY 22 JANUARY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 O Mo Dhùthaich (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)

20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)  
21.00 Scotstar: Teasairginn Eiginneach (rpt)  
21.45 Sgeul Slàinte (rpt)  
22.00 **UR | NEW:** Mach a Seo  
22.30 Trusadh – Falt? (rpt)  
23.30 Alleluia (rpt)

### DICIADAIN 23 AM FAOILLEACH WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Eileanan Fraoich – Muile (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Leugh Mi  
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach  
22.00 **UR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership – Motherwell v Hibernian

### DIARDAOIN 24 AM FAOILLEACH THURSDAY 24 JANUARY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 O Mo Dhùthaich (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 Bus Ghlaschu (rpt)  
21.00 Air a' Chanàil (rpt)  
22.00 **UR | NEW:** Nochd S2  
22.30 Rita Hayworth (rpt)  
23.25 **UR | NEW:** Belladrum Highlights 2018  
23.30 Mach a Seo (rpt)



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# Curtain up on Taynuilt panto

Continued from page 29.

Devaney, Thomas Harden, Katie MacDonald, Iona Cameron, Oona MacLeod, Isla Ingham, Caitlin Mackay, Ruby McDougall, Anna Twigg, Eliza Inall, Isobel Cameron, Sorcha Bryden, and Caya Livingstone.

There is, of course, a lot to be done behind the scenes. Miriam Harden, Jo Landon and David Price are in charge of music, while Emma Grant and Sorley Inall are taking care of lighting.

Costumes were designed

by Claire Brown and Florence Campbell-Gray, choreography is by Sophie Houston and Anna Twigg, and Mo Inall has the job of cast make-up.

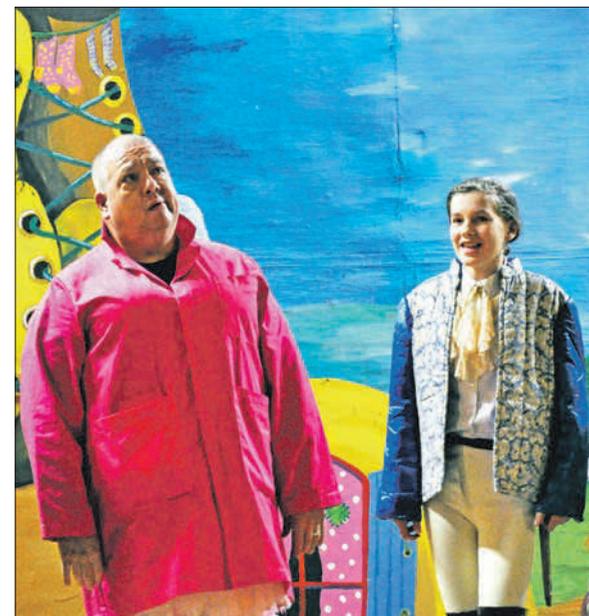
Lynn Brand-Hardy helps with prompts, while Julie Watson, David Thomson and Anna Twigg created the set.

Props are in the hands of Alan Hoar and Johanna Gericke, while Ishbel Inall and Carol Thomson are managing the stage.

And last, but not least, Kathleen Hannigan is in charge of front of house.



Scenes from Taynuilt and District D



# National Galleries of Scotland launches new five-year Gaelic language plan

The National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) has launched an updated Gaelic Language Plan, covering the period 2018-23.

The plan has been developed in line with the requirements of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005.

It supports delivery of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23, which aims to promote a positive image of Gaelic and to increase the number of people learning and using the language.

The new NGS plan, which builds on the Galleries' first Gaelic Language Plan, published in 2013, received formal approval from Bòrd na Gàidhlig last September.

National Galleries of Scotland is one of many Scottish public bodies with a Gaelic Language Plan,



including National Museums Scotland, VisitScotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, as well as local authorities and universities.

The plan published today sets out the Galleries' continued commitment to promote and support the Gaelic language in the delivery of its functions and services.

Key commitments include:

- Providing visitor information in Gaelic.
- Continuing to host an annual week of workshops for Gaelic-medium schools.
- Translating relevant teaching resources into Gaelic.
- Including Gaelic events in its Families Programme.

■ Developing a programme of online Gaelic features and content on its website.

Sir John Leighton, director-general of the National Galleries of Scotland, said: 'The National Galleries of Scotland is pleased to launch our Gaelic Language Plan today.'

'In this plan for 2018-23, we are building on the progress made under our first plan, and looking for new opportunities to promote and use Gaelic in the context of our work and our vision of Art for Scotland: Inspiration for the World.'

National Galleries of Scotland's Gaelic Language Plan can be viewed online at [nationalgalleries.org/about-us/plans-policies](http://nationalgalleries.org/about-us/plans-policies). Hard copies are available on request by phoning 0131 624 6473.

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# WHAT'S ON

In partnership with Oban Town Diary [bid4oban.co.uk](http://bid4oban.co.uk)

### THURSDAY 17TH JANUARY

**Oban Health Walk**  
Oban Congregational Church Hall  
10am - 11.30am

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

### FRIDAY 18TH JANUARY

**Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading**

Glencruitten Church Hall  
All Day

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**

Danny Mooney. Open till 2am

**Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban**

From 9pm. Free Entry

### SATURDAY 19TH JANUARY

**Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading**

Glencruitten Church Hall. All Day

**parkrun**

Ganavan Sands, Oban  
9.30am

**Taynuilt Winter Ceilidh**

Taynuilt Village Hall. 7.30pm

**Let's Make a Scene**

The Rockfield Centre  
8.00pm - 10.00pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**

Calum MacPhail Band  
Open till 2am

**Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban**

From 9pm. Free Entry

### SUNDAY 20TH JANUARY

**Lightbulb Session**

The Rockfield Centre  
2.00pm - 4.00pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**

QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm

£1 per person, max of 6 per team  
Win £20 bar voucher

### MONDAY 21ST JANUARY

**Slimming World**

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Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

### WEDNESDAY 23RD JANUARY

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9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

Events may charge. Please visit [www.obanwhatson.co.uk](http://www.obanwhatson.co.uk)  
for more details. To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

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14:00/19:00 THE FAVOURTIE 15  
16:15 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U  
16:45 HOLMES AND WATSON 12A  
15:00/20:45 FREE SOLO 12A

### MONDAY 21

14:20/19:00 FREE SOLO 12A  
16:15 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U  
16:45 HOLMES AND WATSON 12A  
19:00 THE FAVOURTIE 15

### SATURDAY 19

11:30 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U  
12:00 AQUAMAN 12A  
14:15 THE GRINCH U  
14:30 BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY 12A  
17:45 HOLMES AND WATSON 12A  
19:15 FREE SOLO 12A  
19:45 THE FAVOURTIE 15  
21:30 THE DAWN WALL 15

### TUESDAY 22

14:00 BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY 12A  
16:15 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U  
16:45 HOLMES AND WATSON 12A  
19:00 FREE SOLO 12A  
19:00 THE FAVOURTIE 15

### WEDNESDAY 23

14:15 THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS PG  
16:15 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U  
16:45 HOLMES AND WATSON 12A  
19:00 FREE SOLO 12A  
19:00 THE FAVOURTIE 15

### SUNDAY 20

12:15 AQUAMAN 12A  
12:15 THE GRINCH U  
14:30 THE OLD MAN & THE GUN 12A  
15:15 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U  
16:30 BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY 12A  
18:00 HOLMES AND WATSON 12A  
19:15 FREE SOLO 12A  
20:00 THE FAVOURTIE 15

### THURSDAY 24

14:00/16:15 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U  
16:45 HOLMES AND WATSON 12A  
19:00 FREE SOLO 12A  
19:00 THE FAVOURTIE 15



...dramatic Society's production of There Was an Old Woman.

## Unusual and 'fragile' sculpture of Susie Wolff on display at National Portrait Gallery

A crystal glass sculpture in homage to Oban-born Susie Wolff is on display at the National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh.

Portrait of a Racing Driver by Aberdeen artist Angela Palmer is a recreation of one of the tailor-made racing helmets worn by Susie Wolff during her career in Formula 1.

To create the piece, Palmer worked with a team of glass blowers in Stourbridge near Birmingham.

The result is a delicate object, the fragility of which reminds us of the vulnerability and bravery of drivers like Susie, as they take extraordinary risks in pursuit of ever-faster speeds.

On meeting Susie Wolff, Palmer said: 'Her goal was not to be the best female



driver in the world, but to be the best driver in the world ... Susie's helmet played a significant role in bestowing her equal status as a driver. Once her helmet was on, no one knew if she was male or female.'

Palmer had a distinguished career in journalism before studying at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art at Oxford University and

the Royal College of Art in London from 2002-7.

She developed her sculptural technique while studying anatomy at the Ruskin School and has subsequently worked on many projects with scientists at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, Aberdeen University and University College London.

Palmer's technique, in which digital information provided by medical scanners is used to inspire a three-dimensional image, created from, engraved or drawn on glass, which reveals the inner architecture contained within an object.

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# American artist focuses on Bute Archive for exhibition

Mount Stuart Trust is to host a solo exhibition by Whitney McVeigh this spring as part of its expanded contemporary visual arts programme.

McVeigh reaches into the Bute Archive, traditionally the realm of a patriarchal narrative, and focuses on intimate traces of the history of women in the house, in particular Gwendolen Crichton Stuart, third Marchioness of Bute (1854-1932) and Augusta Crichton Stuart DBE, fourth Marchioness of Bute (1880-1947). The exhibition is an opportunity to bring the archive into the public space, an encounter that alludes to layers of time and celebrates our universality.

McVeigh's practice is concerned with identity, memory and the collective unconscious. She refers to the 'archaeology of memory' as a central concept in her work,



and the belief that energy, in accordance with particle physics, never dies. In this show she presents curated assemblages of archive material and objects, and (following on from her recent work *Divine Rules* at the Getty

Villa in California) a selection of books from the 25,000 publications in the Mount Stuart library, together with her own open letter and texts addressed to the public reader and inscribed on brass plaques placed throughout

the house. A speech given by Augusta in 1934 to the North Bute Literary Society forms the basis for a sound installation, *She Was Known to You*, made in collaboration with actor Maureen Beattie. The tone of the recording,

The exhibition will bring the Bute Archive into the public space at Mount Stuart.

in the manner of writing, is quiet and reflective, and is sited in Augusta's study. The various works encapsulate McVeigh's process – a transformative dialogue between the context, the artist and the viewer – and her profound skills of observation.

Whitney McVeigh (b. 1968, New York) lives and works in London where she is a Fellow in creative practice at University of the Arts, London. Recent solo exhibitions include *Elegy to Nature* at Eykyn Maclean, New York (2018), *Language of Memory* at Summerhall Arts, Edinburgh (2015-16) and *Inventory: Invisible Companion* at Kettle's Yard, Cambridge (2015).

In 2019, McVeigh will guest-curate *Documentum*, co-founded by Stephen Shore, William Boling and Dawn Kim, a periodical archiving and examining the cultural ephemera of our time.

Group exhibitions include *Plato in LA: Contemporary Artists' Visions* at the Getty Villa, Los Angeles (2018), and *Glass Stress, White Light/White Heat* at the 55th Venice Biennale (2013). McVeigh presented the short film, *Birth: Origins*, at the end of life at the Royal Academy of Arts, London (2015). She was featured in BBC4 television documentary, *Where is Modern Art Now* (2009) alongside Michael Landy, Grayson Perry, Cornelia Parker and Sir Anthony Caro and in 2007 gave a short presentation of her work at Louise Bourgeois' Salon in New York.



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Tarbert Loch Fyne	Tue 22 - Wed 23 Jan
Lochgilphead	Thu 24 - Sat 26 Jan

**Mary Poppins Returns** (U) 130 mins  
17/01 at 5pm, 19/01 at 2pm, 21/01 at 5pm, 22/01 at 5pm, 24/01 at 5pm, 26/01 at 2pm

**Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald** (12A) 134 mins  
17/01 at 8.30pm, 20/01 at 5pm, 23/01 at 5pm, 25/01 at 8.30pm

**Bohemian Rhapsody** (12A) 134 mins  
18/01 at 5pm, 19/01 at 8.30pm, 21/01 at 8.30pm, 23/01 at 8.30pm, 24/01 at 8.30pm, 26/01 at 5pm

**A Star is Born** (15) 136 mins  
18/01 at 8.30pm, 22/01 at 8.30pm, 26/01 at 8.30pm

**Films We Love: Nae Pasaran!** (12A) 96 mins (£5/£3)  
English and Spanish - subtitles throughout. BAFTA Scotland winning documentary about the Rolls Royce workers in East Kilbride who stood up to Chilean dictator, Pinochet. Before *Nae Pasaran!* we will screen a 10 minute short: *Mining Poems or Odes*.  
19/01 at 5.30pm, 25/01 at 5.30pm

Book at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk). Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults. £5.50 concs. Fully accessible for wheelchair users.






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The Nevis Centre

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# Spotting the Northern Lights

One of the great things about this time of year is the chance to see the amazing natural phenomena, the Northern Lights.

Wherever you are in Scotland, all you need is a clear night, a dark place to watch and a dose of good luck.

Jonathan Swale, who works on Shetland for Scottish Natural Heritage, is a keen watcher of the Northern Lights.

He said: 'The winter is the best time of year to see the Northern Lights and the best time is a couple of hours either side of midnight.'

'This amazing spectacle is caused by charged particles from the sun colliding with gas particles in the earth's atmosphere. This produces the wonderful patterns of dancing light we see in the sky. The colour of the Northern Lights varies depending on the type of gas particles that are collid-



The Northern Lights.

ing. The top places to see these magical light shows are areas free from light pollution. You need absolutely clear skies with no clouds and your best bet is to stand somewhere where you have a view of the northern horizon.

'Here are some suggestions: Galloway Forest Park; coast

of Fife; Rannoch Moor; the Moray coast; the Cairngorms; the far north and north-west of Scotland, from Applecross to Thurso; Lewis; Harris and the most northerly tip of Skye; Shetland; Orkney and Caithness.

'Our national nature reserves are excellent places

to start. Not only are they beautiful places to enjoy nature during the day, they are also a great for seeing the night sky as they are away from artificial lights.

'Here in Shetland the perfect spot is Hermaness National Nature Reserve, the most northerly point of Britain. Over my years in Shetland, I've spent many hours gazing at the spectacular light displays.'

For a chance to win a 2019 Scottish Natural Heritage calendar, send your best photograph of the Northern Lights this winter to our social media channels - Twitter, Facebook or Instagram - direct message or tag us @nature\_scot. For aurora alerts and forecasts, try the AuroraWatch UK, Service Aurora Forecast or the Glendale app. To find a national nature reserve near you, go to the National Nature Reserve website.

## Your local radio listings

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**MONDAY:** 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 9.00 Monday morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds Monday Mix, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland fling with Rosie MacColl, 20.00 John McLuckie's show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Through the night with Clyde 2  
**TUESDAY:** 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 Breakfast show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday morning, 13.00 Macky on Fm, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.  
**WEDNESDAY:** 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 09.00 Sounds Scottish repeat, 10.00 The Comfort Zone with Lesley Blair Simmonds, 13.00 Doug Carmichael in the afternoon. 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19.00 Country meets Rock & Roll with Len Ford & Kenny MacLachlan alternating. 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre, 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.  
**THURSDAY:** 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00

Christine's collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo till midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2.  
**FRIDAY:** 08.00 breakfast show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny aka Harry, Janet, and Anna, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 21.00 Peter Rainnie 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.  
**SATURDAY:** 08.00 The Breakfast show with Stephen MacPhee. 10.00 Saturday Morning live with Linda Crosher, 13.00 Clyde2 Sports and the Greatest hits, 18.00 Sports view - Oban Fm Dream team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo till Midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2 and the Greatest Hits.  
**SUNDAY:** 09.00 Sunday Morning with Breege, 11.00 Sunday brunch with Allan MacKechnie, 13.00 Clyde 2 on a lazy Sunday afternoon with the Greatest Hits, 19.00 New Country show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.

# Online vote celebrates nature photography

The Scottish Nature Photography Awards celebrate nature, wildlife and landscape photography in Scotland through annual photography and video awards and other events.

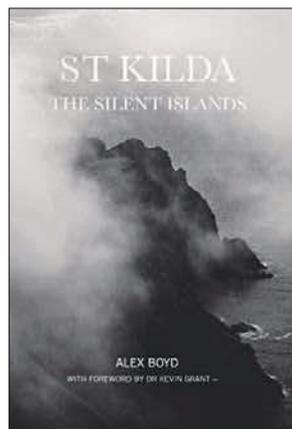
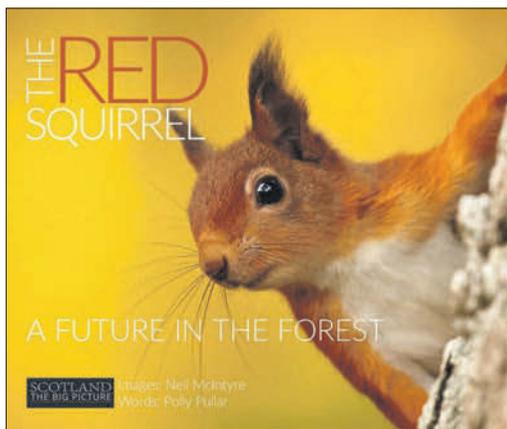
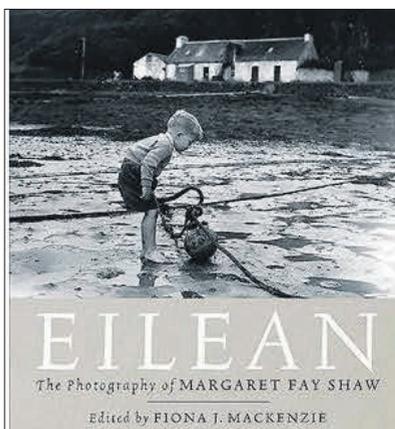
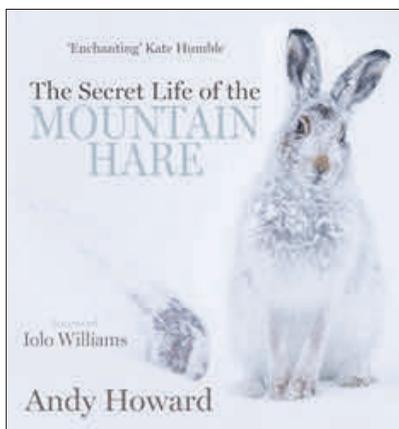
These include an award that recognises the merits of photographic books and asks members of the public to choose their favourites.

The fifth biennial Favourite Scottish Nature Photography Book vote is open until noon on Thursday January 31 online at [www.scottishnaturephotographyawards.com](http://www.scottishnaturephotographyawards.com).

The 11 books shortlisted for the 2018 award highlight different aspects of Scottish nature and landscape with stunning photography. Each is a credit to the work of the photographers, with visual storytelling which is the culmination of their commitment and creativity. The award is also an acknowledgement of the role of the publishers in helping to bring these works to fruition. Organiser Niall Irvine said: 'The online vote is a great way to show appreciation for these books, which offer something to everyone who loves Scottish nature and the art of photography.'

Courtesy of the publishers, everyone who takes part in the online vote will be entered into a free prize draw for one lucky winner to win the entire shortlist of books. The result will be announced in February.

The shortlisted books are:  
Eilean: The Photography of Margaret Fay Shaw. (Birlinn Limited)  
Northwest by Alex Nail. (Alex Nail)  
Photographing Scotland by Dougie Cunningham. (foTVUE Limited)  
Scotland: A Rewilding Journey by Susan Wright, Peter Cairns and Nick Underdown. (SCOTLAND: The Big Picture)

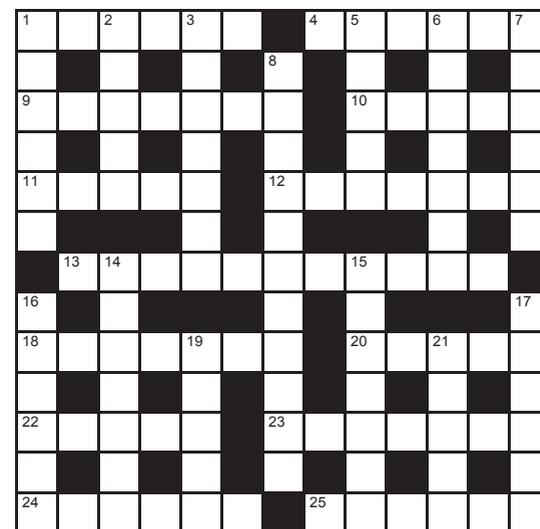


## Some of the books that are shortlisted for the photography awards.

Skye - A Photographic Communion by Allan Wright. (Allan Wright Photographic)  
St Kilda - The Silent Islands by Alex Boyd. (Luath Press Ltd.)  
The Living Cairngorms by Anke Addy. (Anke Addy)  
The Red Squirrel: A Future in the Forest by Neil McIntyre and Polly Pullar.

(SCOTLAND: The Big Picture)  
The Secret Life of the Mountain Hare by Andy Howard. (Sandstone Press Limited.)  
Tir a' Mhurain by Paul Strand. (Birlinn Limited)  
Wild Light - Scotland's Mountain Landscape by Craig Aitchison. (Vertebrate Publishing)

## Crossword



### Across

- 1 Debonair (6)
- 4 Misbehaves (4,2)
- 9 Derisive (7)
- 10 Unlikely to defect (5)
- 11 Parting word (5)
- 12 Worn under the collar (7)
- 13 Pet home (6,5)
- 18 American animal (7)
- 20 Dried coconut meat (5)
- 22 Affiliate (5)
- 23 Metallic element used in colouring glass (7)
- 24 Difficult (6)
- 25 Weightlifting maneuver (6)

### Down

- 1 Relating to the posterior (6)
- 2 Japanese writing using Chinese - derived characters (5)
- 3 Give way to (7)
- 5 Infant's trouble (5)
- 6 Binding (7)
- 7 Young hen (6)
- 8 Model of the heavens (11)
- 14 Capability (7)
- 15 Take off restraints (7)
- 16 Find not guilty (6)
- 17 Comfort (6)
- 19 Check for fit (3-2)
- 21 Use colour (5)

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# Margins increase at Lochaber farm

Farming in one of the wettest parts of the UK brings with it a few challenges but a herd of pedigree Limousin cattle have adapted to the climate and are helping to improve margins at the Cameron family's Strone Farm near Fort William.

Strone is part of Lochiel and Achnacarry Estate. It runs to 1,200 hectares and rises to 2,800 feet above sea level, while a few fields border the picturesque Caledonian Canal.

In 2016, it was selected as the Lochaber monitor farm, one of nine monitor farms established around Scotland in an initiative by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) and AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds. The aim of the programme, funded by Scottish Government, is to improve the productivity, profitability and sustainability of Scottish farms.

Malcolm Cameron has worked for the estate since 1969 and got the chance of the tenancy in 1990 with wife, Eileen. Son Chris came home in 1996 following three years at agricultural college and in 2002 set up his own farming business. He now works



Chris Cameron says Limousin cattle are suited to his farm.

full-time on the farm and has largely taken over the day-to-day running of the business.

Chris and Malcolm were keen to take part in the monitor farm process having been active in previous groups in Argyll, and Chris believes it has made him question everything he does and given him a better understanding of where improvements can be made.

Chris said: 'We were on a development journey with the farm anyway, but this has opened my eyes to new techniques and I feel my personal

development has been one of the biggest benefits of the process so far.'

The farm is stocked with 50 Limousin cows and 520 North Country Cheviot ewes. Malcolm bought his first cow in 1993 from the Anside herd and a second a few years later from the Greenwell herd and the whole herd can be traced back to these two foundation females.

Malcolm added: 'We find the pure Limousin cow is very adaptable, she calves easily and, even if not on the best of grass, will maintain her

condition and get back in calf. She may not have as much milk as a cow grazing on better pasture, but the calves have the genetics to grow on when they are weaned.'

The family have deliberately avoided any extremes in the breed and carefully select bulls on their maternal traits such as ease of calving and milk.

A plus point for the Limousin, according to Malcolm and Chris, is that the cast cows are worth good money at the end of their useful lives. They also sell a few bulls naturally from home, with the best going for £3,500. The family may sell a few breeding heifers in the future but, as Malcolm and Chris have been keen to expand the herd at Strone, all the heifers are currently retained. The rest of the calves are sold at Dingwall at around 10 months of age when they average 350kg liveweight.

Despite advice from the Monitor Farm Group, the Camerons continue to calve all year round, which they believe best suits their system and they are still able to keep individual cows' calving index under 370 days.

## Around the markets

Lochboisdale – United Auctions held their annual early new year sale of all classes cattle and sheep at Lochboisdale Auction Mart on Thursday January 10. An increased entry of stock on the year was presented to the regular force of buyers forward from the Mainland. Bulls sold to average 209 pence per kilo or £720 per head (+ 7 pence per kilo or + £47 per head) whilst Heifers levelled out at 184 pence per kilo or £589 per head (- 4 pence per kilo or + £19 per head). Principal lots and prices. Top prices per head.

Bulls.

AAx: £900 – 325 North Boisdale : £855(4) – 8 Milton : £830 – 325 North Boisdale : £810(2) – 261 Dalburgh : £800 – 8 Milton, 261 Dalburgh and 301/324 Kilphedar.

BSHx: £740 – 28 Eoligarry, Barra. BAx: £795 – 2 Grimsay Island. LIMx: £865 – 1 Airidhmuillinn : £850 – 17 Torlum : £820(2) – 15 Ormiclate.

SIMx: £980(2), £900, £850, £845 and £835 – 136 Stilligarry.

Heifers.

AAx: £780 – 325 North Boisdale. BRBx: £810 – 136 Stilligarry. LIMx: £825 – 13 Eoligarry, Barra : £820 – 1 Howbeg : £805 – 103 Carnan.

Top prices per kilo.

Bulls.

AAx: 235p – 2 Askernish : 231p(4) – 8 Milton.

BAx: 248p – 2 Grimsay Island.

LIMx: 263p(2) – Hillview : 255p – 8 Milton : 243p and 236p – 17 Torlum : 232p – 18 West Gerinish : 231p(2) – 15 Ormiclate.

SIMx: 239p(3) and 232p – 136 Stilligarry.

Heifers.

AAx: 212p – 8 Milton.

BAx: 228p – 2 Grimsay Island. LIMx: 223p – 18 West Gerinish : 222p – 15 Ormiclate and 5 Dunganachy. Cast cows. £970 – 224 Stoneybridge : £880 – 5 Milton : £850 – 324 North Boisdale. Incalf cows. £880 – 224 Stoneybridge : £860 – 136 Stilligarry : £840 – 15 Ormiclate. Sheep. Hogs: £49.50 – 29 Claddach : £49.00 – Croismorag. Ewes: £42.50 – 8 Peninerine. Cast rams: £57 – 122 Craighton, Barra.

Stirling – United Auctions Stirling (Thursday January 10) sold 5668 prime sheep comprising of 4011 prime lambs selling to an average of 187.1.ppk & 1657 ewes and rams.

Lambs (4011) – Overton of Knaven (Tex) £108; South Flanders (Con) £105.00; Luckenburn (BTex) £104.00; Overton of Knaven (Suf) £91.00; West Thomaston (Chev) £88.00; Luckenburn (Mule) £85.00; Letar (BF) £84.50.

Lambs (4011) – West Lethans (BTex) 236.00ppk; Easter Ochtermuthill (Tex) 219.00ppk; South Flanders (Con) 206.00ppk; Clunbeg (Suff) 200.00ppk; Monzie (Chev) 204.00ppk; Waterside (BF) 194.00ppk; Penston (Mule) 187.00ppk. Ewes (1657) – Newton of Collessie (Tex) £148.00; Mains of Balhall (BTex) £129.00; Southfield (Suf) £92.00; Marvingston (Chev) £82.00; Craighall (BFL) £77.00; Lochran & Meadowbank (Mule) £65.00; Doldy & West Lundie (BF) £49.00.

Rams – Ristol (Tex) £80.00.

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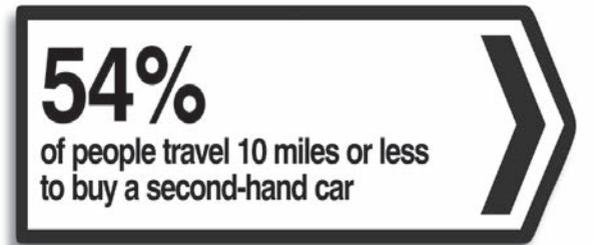
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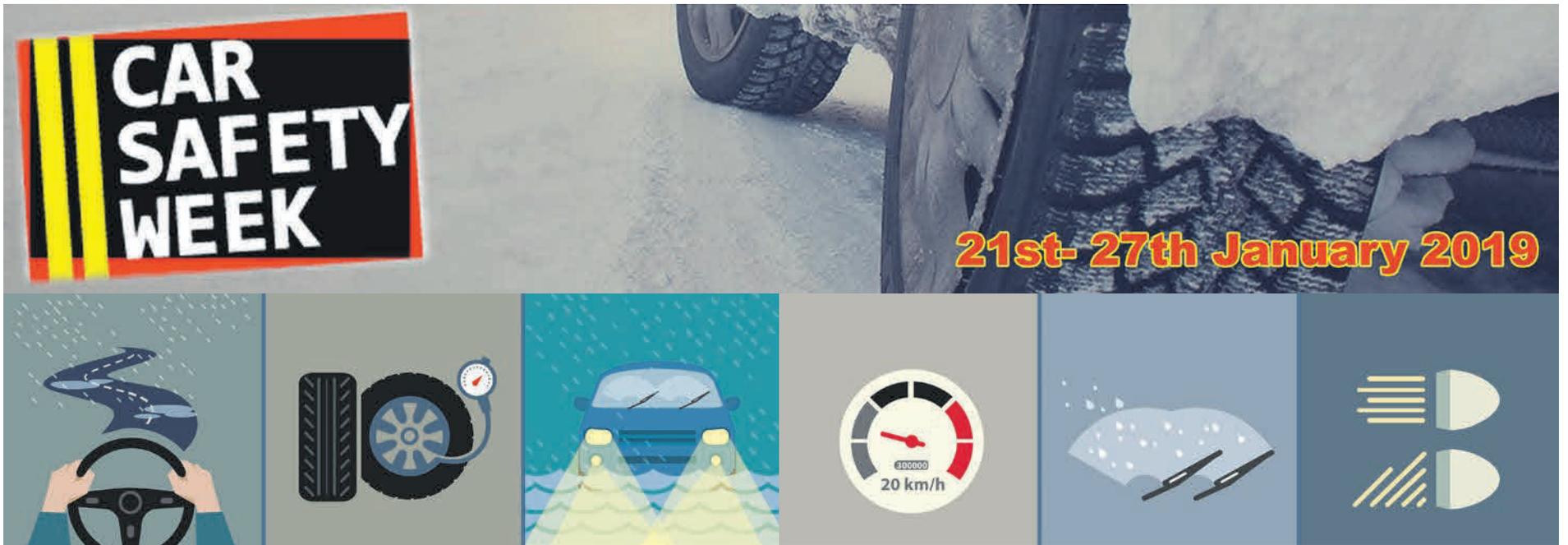


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To promote the growing importance of car safety and road awareness, Car Safety Week is set to return from January 21- 27. With 24 per cent of collisions resulting in a death and approximately 100,000 people still being caught drink driving, there are issues that need addressing with growing urgency. Car Safety Week is here to encourage us all to find the best ways to make driving safe for road users everywhere.

### TAKE EXTRA CARE ON THE ROADS ON ROAD SAFETY WEEK: TIPS FROM IAM ROADSMART

**CAR SAFETY WEEK** is the UK's biggest road safety event, involving thousands of schools, organisations and communities each year. In the spirit of Car Safety Week, this week's tips give advice on those often overlooked road safety issues and how to stay safe driving and riding on the road, from IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards, Richard Gladman.

- Slow down around schools and in residential areas. This may not be rocket science but it's easily forgotten whilst rat-running on the morning commute. If you want to be on time, simply leave earlier. Remember we have speed limits, not targets, and in busy traffic '20 is often plenty'.
- Seatbelts are a must. If you are the driver, it's your duty to ensure all passengers are wearing their seatbelts. Passengers over 14 are responsible for their own seatbelts but it is you as the driver who

will be stopped. Take charge and tell them all to 'belt up'. With that in mind, loose items in a car can become projectiles in a crash, as can an unrestrained passenger. Keep your car tidy and store bags or tools in the boot.

- Jumping red lights. We have all seen drivers, motorcyclists and cyclists do this but the traffic lights are there for all of our safety. If they have been green for some time, plan for them to change and be ready to stop.
- Keep to the speed limit. Rushing from junction to junction or hold up to hold up is often counterproductive. Why 'hurry up to wait'? A 50-mile journey at 80mph will save you at most six minutes compared to the same distance at 70mph. Is it worth the stress and the extra fuel?
- The dangers of hand-held mobile phones are well-known but

taking or making calls by Bluetooth can be just as distracting. Switching the phone off when you get behind the wheel allows you to concentrate fully on perfecting your driving skills.

- Dazzle from low sun is a factor in more crashes than dazzle from headlights. Keep your windscreen clean and don't put those sunglasses away just yet.
  - It is legal for motorcyclists to filter through traffic so give them space and never try to deliberately block them. Check carefully before changing lanes.
- Richard said: 'Most delays on our main roads are caused by accidents and breakdowns. Prevention is so much easier than cure. Check the car over before your journey, keep your distance, manage your speed and we can all have an incident-free week, year and lifetime.'



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Images are for illustrative purposes only. Model shown is not UK specification and may include features or options which are not available in the UK. West End Garage is a broker and not a lender and can introduce you to a limited number of lenders, who may pay us for introducing you to them.  
\*At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) pay the optional final payment and own the vehicle; ii) return the vehicle: subject to excess mileage and fair wear and tear, charges may apply; or iii) replace: part exchange the vehicle.  
With Solutions Personal Contract Plan. 18s+. Subject to availability & status. Excludes FABIA MY18. T&Cs apply. Ordered by 1 April 2019 from participating retailers. †FABIA MPI engines receive £2,450 deposit contribution. All other engines receive £1,700. Indemnities may be required. Accurate at time of publication. ŠKODA Financial Services. #£500 voucher available for orders placed between 20 December – 31 January 2019 and registered by 31 March 2019. Subject to availability. Retail customers only, excluding SE Technology models, CITIGO S Trim & KODIAQ vRS. Excludes Channels Islands and Isle of Man.  
Official fuel consumption WLTP for the ŠKODA FABIA range in mpg (litres/100km): Combined 51.4 (5.5) to 43.5 (6.5). NEDC derived CO<sub>2</sub> combined emissions for the ŠKODA FABIA range are 111 to 105 g/km.  
Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> figures with other vehicles tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load. There is a new test used for fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> figures (known as WLTP). The CO<sub>2</sub> figures shown however, are based on a calculation designed to be equivalent to the outgoing (NEDC) test cycle and will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration. For more information, please see [www.skoda.co.uk/owners/wltp-info](http://www.skoda.co.uk/owners/wltp-info) or consult your retailer. Data correct at December 2018. Figures quoted are for a range of configurations (including non-UK) and are subject to change due to ongoing approvals/changes. Please contact your retailer for further information. For fuel consumption data based on the outgoing test cycle (NEDC equivalent data), which is the 'official' UK fuel consumption data until 31.12.18, please consult your retailer.



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**Please apply in writing by sending your CV to James Peterson – Farm Manager, Estate Office, Ormsary, Lochgilphead, PA31 8PE.**

**Email: [enquiries@ormsary.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ormsary.co.uk) .  
Telephone: 01880 770700.**



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For further details and application forms please contact Andrew Ashton, Director  
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Ardfern, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8QN

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## Aquaculture Technical Co-ordinator

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Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling professional careers. If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work we would very much like to hear from you.

Due to a maternity leave, we are delighted to be advertising for the role of Aquaculture Technical Co-ordinator supporting our Mainland Marine business.

The role is to assist in maintaining a leading industry performance in respect of environmental sustainability and customer assurance. To work throughout the production operations to ensure optimal operation of our QMS system through effective auditing, support and planning.

Applicants should be educated to degree level or have equivalent experience in Aquaculture or related subject. In addition, a qualifications in Food Safety (HACCP) would be advantageous. Ideally Applicants would have auditing experience / qualification. A Lead Auditor qualification would be advantageous.

In return we will offer an attractive salary dependant on experience along pension scheme, life cover, occupational health support, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme.

A current driving licence is essential.

We are an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons; however you must be able to provide documentation of your right to work in the UK.

For more information on this role, please contact Andy Gourlay on [andy.gourlay@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:andy.gourlay@scottishseafarms.com) or 07831 224905

**If you would like to find out more, please visit the careers page on our website: <https://www.scottishseafarms.com/our-people/careers>.**

**Closing date for applications: Friday 25th January 2019**



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

## Fishery Officer

Campbeltown

£24,580 - £27,515 plus Allowances

We have a permanent role available within our Marine Scotland compliance team based in our Campbeltown office.

The role involves Investigating breaches of Scottish, UK, EU and International Fisheries legislation together with providing guidance, advice and information to the fishing Industry.

Inspections are conducted 24/7 in line with the operations of the Industry and officers can expect to undertake some of their duties in unsocial hours or weekends.

For further information and to apply, simply visit our website [www.work-for-scotland.org](http://www.work-for-scotland.org).

Closing date: 5th February 2019.

We welcome applications from all suitably qualified people and aim to employ a diverse workforce which reflects the people of Scotland.

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## Systems Accountant (Part Qualified or Newly Qualified)



**Fixed term position 3 Months  
Full Time Salary up to £27,285 per annum depending on qualifications and experience  
Full time or part time hours considered**

This role involves the transfer and reconciliation for Research Education and Enterprise projects into our NetSuite finance system. This will also involve preparing and testing the data to be transferred, the development of project management reports and training staff on how to input and extract project data.

## Project Administration Assistant

**Fixed term position 3 Months  
Full Time Salary £16,654 per annum  
Full time or part time hours considered**

This role involves inputting the financial information for Research, Education and Enterprise projects into our Netsuite finance system ensuring that the data is phased in line with the deliverables, milestones and Project Leaders requirements.

Ideally, we would like the successful candidates to start immediately due to project deadlines in April.

Please visit [www.sams.ac.uk](http://www.sams.ac.uk) for more details on both positions or email [recruitment@sams.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@sams.ac.uk)

**The closing date for receipt of applications for both positions is 25th January 2019**

*SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.*

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**Autism Advisor: Get set 4 Autism Programme**  
Argyll and Bute  
Temporary until 2nd August 2020: Part Time (18.5hrs)  
Salary: £22,122 - £26,070 pro rata Reference: SA/716

We are seeking to appoint a part time Autism Advisor to support the delivery of our Get Set 4 Autism project throughout Argyll and Bute. The programme is funded by The Big Lottery.

In this role you will promote the use of our online professional learning resource among a range of job roles and disciplines across Argyll and Bute. You will develop and deliver a plan to promote the resource across the region and develop support materials which will complement the online content with a view to supporting application to practice.

The successful candidates will have a degree level qualification in health, education or social care or any other relevant qualification along with extensive experience in supporting individuals with autism. The role requires flexibility, creativity and high level of driving.

For more information please email [jade.love@scottishautism.org](mailto:jade.love@scottishautism.org)  
Closing Date: 25 January 2019



PMG Services is a fast growing multi disciplined engineering company covering Argyll and the west coast of Scotland. We now have an opportunity for someone to join our team as we are offering a full engineering apprenticeship.

The successful applicant will work towards an NVQ level 3 in plant maintenance. Applicants must have some experience in the mechanical field a minimum of one year is required.

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Please contact Peter on 07766513585 or send CVs to [info@pmg-services.com](mailto:info@pmg-services.com)

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**Marine Hatchery Technician**  
**Broodstock Manager**

Otter Ferry Seafish is a well established leading Marine hatchery based on Loch Fyne supplying the major Salmon farming companies with cleaner fish – Ballan Wrasse and Lumpfish as well as producing Halibut juveniles for Gigha halibut. Due to expansion in all species there are a number of exciting opportunities to join the dedicated production team at Otter Ferry.

Candidates should be production focused and ambitious to develop their careers in Scottish Aquaculture. Experience in Salmonid or Marine fish hatchery work is desirable but not essential. The positions available suit a range of experience and responsibilities.

An attractive remuneration package including accommodation is available in line with qualifications and experience. Training and personal development packages will be matched to the requirements of the individual.

If you have the drive and enthusiasm to really make a difference then please send your CV with two references to:

**Chris Hempleman – Production Director –**  
[c.hempleman@otterferry.com](mailto:c.hempleman@otterferry.com) or call for more information 07539 934 008.

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**  
**VARIATION TO EXISTING MARINE FARM**  
**ISLE OF COLONSAY**

Notice is hereby given that Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of a variation to an existing marine farm at:

**Cost >£2,500 - <£5,000**

Location	Latitude	Longitude
Isle of Colonsay	56° 05.709' N	006° 07.870' W
	56° 05.693' N	006° 07.842' W
	56° 05.644' N	006° 07.933' W
	56° 05.612' N	006° 07.879' W
	56° 05.550' N	006° 07.993' W
	56° 05.421' N	006° 07.770' W
	56° 05.727' N	006° 07.201' W
	56° 05.857' N	006° 07.425' W
	56° 05.799' N	006° 07.533' W
	56° 05.830' N	006° 07.587' W
	56° 05.794' N	006° 07.655' W
	56° 05.812' N	006° 07.687' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at The Post Office, Colonsay, Scalasaig, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll and Bute, PA61 7YW.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot), quoting reference: 05025V and Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd

**Fair Processing Notice**

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinelicencing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicencing@gov.scot) or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

**THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (MILLPARK ROAD, MILLPARK AVENUE AND MCCALLS TERRACE, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2017**

Notice is hereby given that following a request from Argyll and Bute Council, the Scottish Ministers on 10th January 2019, made a direction under Section 15(3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to allow the continuation of the above named Order. The Order which came into operation on Monday 24th July 2017 was due to expire on Friday 18th January 2019 and will now continue in force until 18th July 2019.

The effect of the Order is to prohibit temporarily all vehicular traffic to wait between the hours of 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday on the lengths of road as specified in the schedule hereto. The restrictions imposed by this Order are required because of the likelihood of danger to the public and to permit the unhindered passage of vehicles.

**Schedule – Prohibition Of Waiting Monday To Friday 8am To 6pm**

- Millpark Road south side, from Soroba Road A816 extending westerly for a distance of 180 metres or thereby;
- Millpark Road north side, from Soroba Road A816 extending westerly for a distance of 8 metres or thereby;
- Millpark Road north side, from a point 90 metres or thereby from Soroba Road A816, extending westerly for a distance of 90 metres or thereby;
- Millpark Avenue both sides from its junction with Millpark Road extending in a southerly direction for a distance of 56 metres or thereby;
- McCall's Terrace, both sides from Soroba Road A816, extending in an easterly direction for a distance of 93 metres or thereby.

**Head of Roads & Amenity Services,**  
1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:  
[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



### GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

John Cameron MacFarlane & Sine MacLean Currie MacFarlane trading as Argyll Engineers Ltd of Glenshallach Road, Oban, Argyll, Scotland, PA34 4BH is applying for a licence to use Glenshallach Road, Oban, Argyll, Scotland, PA34 4BH as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 1 trailer. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representations must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.



**We have a full-time position available for a time served mechanic to join our team.**  
Must have UK driving licence.

Unit 1/Crannog Lane Oban PA34 4HB  
email: [obangarage@gmail.com](mailto:obangarage@gmail.com)



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www.highland.gov.uk



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
18/05880/LBC	Arisaig Railway Station Station Road, Arisaig	Installation of 2 no. new double sided customer information screens on gallows located on platform 1 and 2
18/05850/FUL	Land 6500M SE Of Birch View, Auchindarroch, Duror (Site accessed from Glen Creran, Argyll)	Installation of up 600kW hydro-electric scheme, including pipeline, erection of turbine house, intake weir and outfall (Glen Creran Hydro)
18/05951/S42	Land 60M SW Of Clachaig Cottage, Glencoe	Modify condition 2 of planning permission 04/00457/FULLO to change the use of chalet 5 to year-round staff accommodation
18/05815/FUL	Land 5655M SE Of Penstock Cottage, Lochaber Road Kinlochleven	Proposal to install a small generating station at the base of Blackwater Dam
18/05923/LBC	Conversion Of Church Loehailort	Conversion to a house with part upper floor; addition of rooflights and replacement windows
18/05925/FUL	Conversion Of Church Loehailort	Conversion of former chapel to house
18/05402/FUL	Site Of Former Primary School, Zetland Avenue Upper Achintore, Fort William	Erection of affordable housing (38 units)
18/05943/PIP	50M North East Of Willow Cottage, Auchindarroch Duror	Renewal 15/04025/PIP - Erection of house and formation of access
18/05953/S42	Land 30M SE Of Achnasith, Duror	Section 42 Planning Permission Application - Removal of Condition 2 on Planning Permission 08/00435/FULLO to allow continued siting and use of established Wigwams
19/00040/LBC	Land 35M SW Of Banavie Swing Bridge Banavie, Fort William	Alterations to railway swing bridge to replace the control system and ancillary works
18/05750/FUL	Land 1100M SW Of Glencoe Caravan And Camping Site Glencoe	Construction of a run of river hydro scheme, including intake, buried pipeline, turbine house, outfall, grid connection & access tracks
18/05858/FUL	Abernethy School Of Adventure Leadership Ardour, Fort William	Change of Use from store to staff bedroom

Time period for comments is 14 days (21 days for 18/05880/LBC and 19/00040/LBC)  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
18/02497/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, alterations and change of use of outbuilding to form letting flat at first floor and artist studio at ground floor	Green Roofs Balevullin Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6XD
18/02661/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land East Of The Steading Ardmore Road Salen Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
18/02544/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of access.	Land South Of Lagganulva Farm Ulva Ferry Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
18/02654/PP	Construction of hydropower scheme	Land North Of Edendonich Dalmally Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

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[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



**FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT**

Mr David R Cameron has registered his croft known as 161 Kentra (Burnside), Kentra, Ardnamurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 21st September 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5583.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (SALEN LOOP ROAD (UC81), SALEN, ISLE OF MULL) (30MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2019**

On Monday 14th January 2019, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order in terms of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.

The Order, which comes into operation on Monday 1st March 2019, introduces a 30mph speed restriction on the Salen Loop Road in Salen Village, Isle of Mull. The new speed limit will cover the entire length of the road.

A copy of the Order and plan relative thereto can be inspected by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders) or viewed during normal office hours at:-

- (i) Salen Post Office and Stores, Salen, Isle of Mull;
- (ii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Breadalbane Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull;
- (iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person, who wishes to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from the 18th January 2019, apply to the Court of Session for this purpose.

Head of Roads & Amenity Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

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[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



**PROPOSED ASSIGNATION OF A CROFT**

Jamie Ardagh is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at Croft 9, Cleadale, Isle of Eigg, PH42 4RL to Ewen Kirk of Lageorna, Isle of Eigg, PH42 4RL.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) by February 14, 2019.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008**

Notice of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be published in a local newspaper under regulation 7(2)

Diageo Ltd, the prospective applicant, hereby gives notice of a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application to Argyll and Bute Council for a prospective development comprising New Distillery and Associated Infrastructure and Visitors Experience at Port Ellen Maltings.

Further information in respect of the prospective development may be obtained by contacting Blyth and Blyth Consulting Engineers Ltd, Cornerstone, 60 South Gyle Crescent, EH12 9EB.

A public event which will include a presentation of the prospective development and opportunity or public discussion with the prospective applicant is to be held at The Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen on January 29th 2019 between the hours of 4pm and 7pm.

Any persons wishing to submit comments should submit these to the prospective applicant at Blyth and Blyth Consulting Engineers Ltd, Cornerstone, 60 South Gyle Crescent, EH12 9EB. Before Noon on 21st February 2019.

Persons submitting comments in response to Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) are advised that comments submitted to the prospective applicant at this time are not representations to the planning authority; in the event that prospective applicant submits a formal application for planning permission then there would be an opportunity to submit representations to Argyll and Bute Council as the planning authority at that time.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Oban Times**

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION**

R Douglas Part Shieling, Arisaig & Moidart  
0.21 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
Case 91316

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 15/02/2019. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot)

The Crofting Commission takes the protection of your privacy seriously. To safeguard your personal data and make sure that it is accurate, we only collect and/or store the data necessary to carry out our functions as a regulatory body. You can find a copy of our Privacy Notice at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-customer-care](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-customer-care).

**DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED**

DE Cameron  
KC Cameron-Sutcliffe  
86 Portuairk, Mo Dhachaidh, Ardnamurchan & Sunart  
87360  
0.059 ha  
Reason - Existing house site  
No Conditions

L Pate  
1 & 2 Muirshearlich, Kilmallie  
92944  
0.005 ha  
Reason - amenity ground  
Condition - With fencing conditions.

Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

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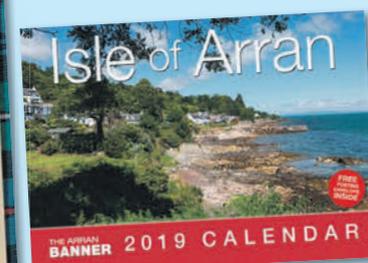
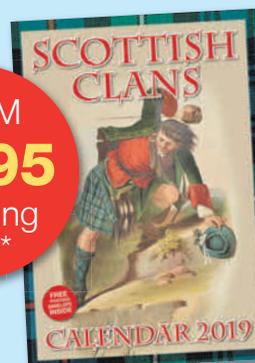
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FALKUS AND BULLER FRESHWATER FISHING BOOK Falkus (Hugh) And Bullers "Freshwater Fishing" /Hardback/1994 /Exc. Condition, £30 Telephone 01586 554537.

SEA TROUT FISHING BOOK "Sea Trout Fishing" (The Fisherman's Bible) by Hugh Falkus, 1983, Revised 2nd Edition, Hardback, Exc.Cond, £20 Telephone 01586 554537.

## Building / DIY

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dition. White - H85x-W60xD53 (Minard), £30 Telephone 01546 886305.

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SINGLE BED Traditional style solid pine construction. Can send photo via email, £35 Telephone 01631 710727.

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## BIRTHS

**LEES** - Richard and Gil (née Young) are delighted to announce the arrival of Dylan Joshua on January 7, 2019 in Wrexham, Wales. A brother for Isaac. Second grandson for Mike and Fiona (née Campbell, Lismore) and James and Hilary (Ahoghill, Northern Ireland).

## DEATHS

**BRECHIN** - Peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on January 13, 2019, Gordon Brechin senior, in his 93rd year, of 3 Barrmor View, Kilmartin, and formerly of Upper Largie Farm, Kilmartin, beloved husband of the late Margaret Paterson, dearly loved father of Marion, Robert and Gordon, a cherished grandpa and great grandpa and a much respected member of the local and farming community. Funeral service will be held in Glassary, Kilmartin and Ford Parish Church, Kilmartin (former Living Stones Christian Centre), on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at 1.00pm, thereafter to Achabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, to Glenaray Ward and the Macmillan Suite, Mid Argyll Hospital. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

**HASTIE** - Peacefully at Gortanvogie on January 14, 2019, Donald, aged 90 years of 32 School Street, Port Ellen, beloved husband of Alice Shaw and much loved father of Mary and Dolinda, father-in-law, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle and friend. Funeral service in St Johns, Port Ellen on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 11.30am, Sadly missed by all.

**LOCKHART** - Sadly on January 14, 2019, Gordon, much loved husband of Jean, loving father of Mandy, Jacqui and stepdaughter Erica. (Formerly of the Rockery, Connel and Clyde Court, Helensburgh). Funeral service at Cardross Crematorium on Friday January 25, 2019 at 1.15pm to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only. Sadly missed.

**MACINTYRE** - Peacefully, at home, surrounded by her family on Monday, January 14, 2019, Rose MacIntyre (née Matthews). Beloved wife of the late Dochie, loving mum

of Mo, Marion and Robert, also a much-loved granny and great-granny. Funeral service will be held at 12 noon on Monday, January 21, 2019 in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church; thereafter to Kilmallie Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired to Marie Curie nurses and district nurses can be given at the church door or forwarded to McLellan Funeral Directors, Dudley Road, Fort William.

**MACKENZIE** - Peacefully at Belford Hospital on January 11, 2019, Duncan Farquhar, aged 79 years, youngest son of the late Alexander and Bessie MacKenzie, Muir of Ord, dear brother of Ian, Alasdair and Mary and a much loved uncle. Funeral will take place at Oban Free Church on Wednesday, January 23 at 1.00pm thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only.

**McLEAN** - Peacefully, with her family by her side, in the Sunshine Room, Campbeltown Hospital, on January 11, 2019, Robina McLean (Bina), in her 85th year, 4 John Street, formerly of Bellfield Farm, Campbeltown, dearly beloved wife of the late Alex McLean, much loved mum of Duncan and Elizabeth, mother-in-law of Lesley and Roger and dearly beloved granny of Cara, Frances and Rosemary. Funeral service in the Highland Parish Church, today Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 1.00pm, thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retiral collection will be held in aid of the MS Society, Kintyre, and Kintyre Cancer and Palliative Care.

**McTAVISH** - Tragically, as the result of an accident, on January 4, 2019, Campbell McTavish, aged 50 years, late of 5 Kilduskland Drive, Ardrishaig, beloved younger son of the late Donald and Mary McTavish (Ardrishaig), much loved brother of Kevin, Angela, Annette and Donna and an adored uncle. Loving partner of Sharon. A good friend to many, who will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Funeral service will be held in Ardrishaig Parish Church, today Friday, January 18, 2019, at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Achabreac Cemetery. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

**RYAN** - Annie (née Graham). Peacefully passed away at Erskine Glasgow Home on January 10, 2019. Annie beloved wife of the late Jack, much loved mum to Douglas, Kath and the late Barry, proud gran to Grant, Alex and Emma and a loving sister to Jessie and the late Duncan. Funeral service will be held at Strontian Parish Church, Anaheilt, Strontian, PH36 4HZ on Friday January 25, at 1pm thereafter to Drimnatorran Cemetery at 2pm to which all family and friends are welcome.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**MACPHERSON** - Margaret and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many cards, phone calls and floral tributes following the death of Hugh. Thank you to those who travelled near and far to pay their last respects at Dunoon and also to those who came to Cladhahuilin cemetery.

**MUNRO** - Danny, Margaret, Gerald and Evelyn would like to sincerely thank all family and friends for joining them in the Memorial Service for their loving son and brother who sadly died suddenly in Denmark. Grateful thanks for the very many kind expressions of sympathy received personally and by card. Heartfelt thanks to Fr Danny Convery for a very comforting service, organist Margaret, Frank for his assistance, John who delivered a tribute in Allan's memory and James who recorded the service for Allan's family in Denmark. Thanks to McLellan's Funeral Directors for their guidance and to the Bridge Cafe for the excellent catering following the service. Finally, thanks to all who generously donated £474 to Mary's Meals.

**CORSON** - Thank you to the Mallaig community for supporting both Bobby and Jessie Corson over the last few years, enabling them to stay in the home they loved. Dad had been having care at home by a group of patient ladies. Having spent a week of good quality time with him I really appreciate that Nancy and her colleagues cared for Dad and me over his last week, nothing was too much bother. Thanks to Dr Iain and Mary Boyles

from the Medical Centre who were constantly at our side to ensure the Dad was settled and not in pain. All visits were interspersed with interesting stories and memories from the last 27 years, something only possible from living together in a small village. I will always be indebted to the quality of care both my parents have received.

Finally, how does one bury the undertaker? Because of his profession Dad had thought about this and had discussed it with Father Stan, myself, Scott, Linnie and John from McLellan's. I would like to think we followed his wishes to the best of our abilities. Thanks to Scott, Linnie and John for being by my side before and after Dad passed away. Thanks to Father Stan, Rev Alan Lamb for their kind and sincere words and to my cousin Barry Hutchinson who once again lightened the sad day with an amusing eulogy. Thank you to all that travelled at such short notice at Christmas time to say goodbye to Bobby at the graveside and for one final time at the Chlachain. Donations received are shared between the Mackintosh and the Lochaber Mountain Rescue with whom he had been a team member in his younger years.

**MACKINTOSH** - Vince, Islay and Campbell would like to express their appreciation and thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for the kindness, sympathy and support shown to them following their sad loss of Clare. Grateful thanks to Lochaber District Nurses, Lochaber Macmillan Nurses and Marie Curie Nurses who cared for Clare during her illness. Special thanks to Rev Stewart A Mackay and Rev Malcolm Kinnear for conducting Clare's comforting service at Nether Lochaber Parish Church and at the graveside. To McDonald Brothers, Inverloch for the excellent flower arrangements and to David, Susan and Val Heron at The Four Seasons Restaurant for their outstanding hospitality both before and after the funeral. To the Royal Regiment of Scotland for providing an immaculately turned out

bearer party and Piper Captain Martin Macdonald for his fitting pipe tunes throughout the funeral. To The Royal British Legion Fort William Branch for providing support to the family during this difficult time. Thanks to all those who travelled from near and far to say goodbye to Clare and to all who generously donated £593.64 to Lochaber District Nurses. Finally, thanks to Scott, Linnie, Stuart and Peter at John McLellan Funeral Directors for their professionalism, care and assistance, ensuring that Clare's and the family's requests were fulfilled for Clare's special send off.

## MEMORIALS

**BRIGHTMORE** - In loving memory of my dear father, Eric who died January 8, 2009 and my dear mother Mary, who died January 21, 2000. Loved and remembered every day.  
- Catherine, John, Clair and John, Corpach.

**CAMPBELL** - Precious memories of our mother Marion, who died January 17, 1997. Loved and remembered always.  
- Lorne and Kathie, Eriskay and Alasdair, Christine and family, Blairgowrie.

**CRAWFORD** - In memory of Jessie, died January 20, 1995, a dear mother and gran. Sadly missed.  
- The family.

**GALBRAITH** - In loving memory of George of Drumfingal, Dervaig, Mull, who died on January 20, 1995.  
- From Brenda, Christine, Duncan and Andrew.

**LYNN** - Winnifred. My darling wife, died January 23, 2016. So sorely missed. 2019 would have been our Diamond Anniversary.  
- Forever loved Colin.

**LYNN** - In everlasting memory of my dear sister Win, who passed away January 23, 2016 after many years of illness bravely borne. Always remembered.  
- Kate and family.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of our dear mum Susie (née MacKin), who passed away January 19, 2018. Forever in our hearts.  
- From all the family.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of our dear brother Willie (Glencoe), who passed away ten years ago. Loved and remembered always.  
- Maimie and Kathleen and families.

**MACDOUGALL** - In memory of our dearly loved son Duncan, who is in our thoughts each and every day. Tragically taken from us on January 18, 2018.

Remembering you is easy, we do it every day, but missing you is heartache, that never goes away.  
- Mum and Dad

**MACMILLAN** - Treasured memories of David (Herc), beloved partner, son, brother and friend, who died January 21, 2016.

Forever in our hearts.  
- Janet, Dad, Margaret and family.

**MACRAE** - Precious memories of Len a loving husband, dad and grampa, who died Jan 18, 2003. Loved and remembered every day.  
- Love Kate and families xx

**POTTER** - Precious memories of our youngest daughter and sister Jennifer Jane, tragically killed January 20, 2001, aged 17.

Loved and missed.  
- Mum, Coogie and family xxx.

**POTTER** - Always remembering my dear granddaughter Jennifer, who died on January 20, 2001.  
- Love from Nana. xx

**POTTER** - Fond memories of Jennifer, who died on January 20, 2001.  
- Auntie Irene and family. xx

**POTTER** - Treasured memories of our dear niece and cousin Jennifer, who died tragically on January 20, 2001.  
- Stephen, Kirsty, Findlay and Susannah. xx

**ROBERTSON** - In loving memory of the late Mary Robertson (née Simpson), wife of the late Iain MacKinnon Robertson of 5 Rockfield Road, Tobermory, who passed away on January 9, 2015. She is sadly missed and dearly loved by her daughter Marion and son Niall, sisters Annie (Capewell) and the late Katie (Weatherall) and all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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Oban Times  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Obituary: Captain William (Bill) Grant

Born: December 6, 1934.  
Died: November 16, 2018.

Bill was born and bred in Strathpeffer. His mother and master carpenter father had another three sons

Wartime was an exciting time for the four youngsters and, following requisition of the family home by ATS and later the Seaforth Highlanders, their memories of the period included regular security checks as they trudged to Sunday School and the Boys' Brigade, the sound of bombers overhead, gas masks accompanying school bags and the BBC Home Service 9 o'clock news every night.

Also recalled was the old gentleman appointed as replacement for the primary school head teacher and whose predilection for gardening clearly influenced Bill in later life, coaxing an annual crop of strawberries.

With west of Scotland ancestry including grandparents from Oban and Bunessan on the Isle of Mull, the sea was, from a very early age, in Bill's blood. During the period 1950-51, he twice attended Moray Sea School, co-founded a year before by Kurt Hahn and whose maxim - 'There is more to us than we know. If we can be made to see it, perhaps for the rest of our lives we will be unwilling to settle for less' - was to become a tenet for the rest of Bill's life.

At 16 years old he joined the Shell Tanker Company as a deck apprentice and for the next 20 years, while traversing the globe honing and practising his navigation skills, he gazed upwards wondrously to the star-studded night skies - visible in all its glory only from the world's mid oceans, engendering a lifelong passion for the constellations and planets.

In 1966, in continuance of his studies and as a means to supplement income, part-time teaching Lossiemouth fishermen and at Lossie High School, he was introduced to Frances, a daughter of the then Provost of Lossiemouth.



Captain William (Bill) Grant.

They married two years later and, until the arrival of their sons, their happiest times were when Frances seized the opportunity to accompany her husband aboard the various oil tankers in which he sailed as a deck officer during world-girdling voyages. Shortly after, however, the pressures of a young family led to Bill forsaking the sea in favour of studies at Aberdeen University to attain formal teaching qualifications.

With fond memories of childhood Oban holidays, on qualifying he delighted in his appointment as teacher of nautical subjects at Oban High School - one of only six Scottish schools at the time offering this specialised subject.

Settling in Oban with his young family, Bill quickly developed a reputation for naval discipline in the classroom, much appreciated in the later lives of ex-pupils and usually rewarded in the form of the very freshest of fish during evening strolls around Oban's harbour.

Bill's sea legs were maintained, especially during school holidays when, again as a means to supplement income, he would take on temporary positions including command of the Lundy Ferry, a North Sea 'rig boat', weekly remote island ventures while transporting cruising ornithologists and helping at the nearby marina at Kilmelfort.

In time and as a money saving measure, Highland Regional Council dropped nautical from the school curriculum, causing Bill to settle for teaching mainly maths. But he was regularly called upon to act as a 'stand-in' when charged with alternative subjects including art and modern studies.

With retirement from the classroom, Bill returned to sea for a year serving aboard a pollution control vessel and later, while applying his seafaring skills to good use in the form of a Royal Yachting Association instructor and examiner, he chanced upon and responded to an Oban Times letter whose

'He will be so remembered with great affection by most as truly 'an old man of the sea''

author - the late Ronnie MacIntyre - was advocating the establishment of a Second World War commemorative venture. In time, Ronnie and Bill set about researching and collecting war photographs and related paraphernalia. They enlisted a network of volunteer supporters, resulting in the opening of a display in a George Street shop, while feeding Bill's passion for the sea and a fascination of photography, duly spiced with a sense of history.

During the next 11 years, however, such was the success of the venture, that a series of ever larger premises was needed. This culminated in the establishment of a small Oban War and Peace Museum and, with Bill as its curator, while located on the North Pier, it was to be visited by HM the Queen.

With the aid of lottery and other grant funding, a now permanent home was established at the old Oban Times building on the Corran Esplanade, featuring photographs, artefacts and other memorabilia covering local history and the war years.

It was when Frances started music studies and teacher training at Glasgow University that Bill discovered, to his great delight, access to its library and that of the Mitchell nearby, spending many happy hours in research of both war and genealogy, leading to his production of family trees for both sides of his and Frances's families and ever more material for the War and Peace museum.

Around 2008, he discovered Glasgow's tallship - the 1896 Clyde-built restored sailing vessel the barque Glenlee - berthed only a few minutes walk from the university and he soon enlisted as a volunteer. With the vessel

relocated to a berth adjacent to the newly-opened (mid 2011) Glasgow Museum of Transport at Riverside, Bill continued his research related duties mainly on matters concerning the vessel's navigation, tramp trading routes, ports of call and cargoes carried during her 23 years a commercial 'windjammer' drawn down from her old rough, deck and official log-books and other sources.

Many of the descriptive material and artefacts to be found aboard Glenlee today are a result of Bill's dedication to this particularly exacting and time consuming work. Only recently he received a much-treasured letter from the chief executive of the Clyde Maritime Trust commending him for his invaluable and unique contribution to its history.

Throughout his life, Bill recorded probably tens of thousands of interesting snippets and observations in notebooks, all duly retained for posterity.

At his memorial service in Oban Parish Church on November 23 2018, many leaves from his stock of notebooks were placed on the pews with the request that attendees append their reflections of Bill and his life. Relatives and friends concluded: 'An iceberg: There is so much more to him beneath the surface.' From an ex-pupil: 'Inspirational.' From Canadian relatives: 'Kind, funny, thoughtful, interesting, steadfast and ever present, expected to go on forever.' From a brother: 'A custodian of family tradition with a keen sense of history.' And from his co-workers and others: 'Meticulous - yes, meticulous!'

Bill is survived by his wife, with whom he celebrated 50 years of marriage a few weeks before his death, three sons, two grandsons and three brothers.

It was not too long ago Bill declared that as a seafarer, he had been blessed with 20/20/20 vision; 20 years at sea, 20 years' teaching and 20 years' volunteering.

## THOUGHT for the week

How do you show who you really are?

I've just sent off for a new passport and I had to go to great lengths to prove my identity. I sent in my birth certificate, driving licence, bank statement, electricity bill, payslip and a couple of photographs signed by a reputable witness, so that the agency issuing the passport can be sure about my name, nationality and address.

I suppose it is right that the people who issue official documents take real care to avoid false or misleading claims. However, I don't have to prove my identity to my family and friends. They don't need to see a passport or driving licence. They recognise me by my appearance, my words and my actions. Quite simply, they know me.

We don't need documents, letters or certificates to prove who we are to God. He knows us already. We're part of the family.

'Lord, you have searched me and you know me,' the Psalmist says, and Jesus promised: 'Everyone who my Father gives me will come to me. I will never turn away anyone who comes to me.'

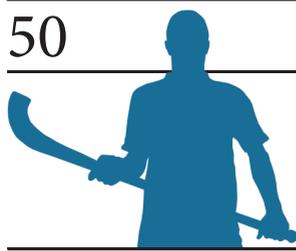
We're known, we're loved and we're included because Jesus has done all that is needed to make us welcome. Simply by coming to him in faith we are guaranteed a welcome. His is a kingdom with open borders and no immigration control.

Loving, welcoming and including people as Jesus did should be the hallmark of his friends as well. We are supposed to be recognisable by our love. 'If you have love for another, everyone will know that you are my disciples,' Jesus said.

Since he said that to a troublesome, argumentative and diverse group of friends, he knew what a challenge that would be. But in God's kingdom you don't need to show your passport - you just need to show your love.

Rev Richard Baxter,

Fort William:  
Duncansburgh MacIntosh  
and Kilmonivaig Parish  
Churches.



# SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

# Dougie MacIntyre named new Oban Celtic manager

Oban Celtic have confirmed Dougie MacIntyre has been appointed their new first team manager.

Dougie takes over ahead of Oban Celtic's third season in the Marine Harvest National Division and will be assisted by Les Kinvig who was involved with the Oban Celtic reserves last season.

The duo replace Kenny Wotherspoon who stepped down after three years in charge during which he led the side to the Marine Harvest South Division 1 title followed by a sixth and then a fifth-place finish in the Marine Harvest National Division.

Although Dougie MacIntyre has not previously managed at a senior level, he can call on his playing days at the highest level with town rivals Oban Camanachd.

Oban Celtic's Davie Hamilton said: 'Dougie brings with him a wealth of experience from his playing days. He knows how to play the game and can put that across to the boys. I'm sure they will take to him and they've been very positive about the appointment.'

'Dougie has been there and done it and although he's not managed a senior side, his assistant Les (Kinvig) has experience of running a team so I'm sure they will do well together for Oban Celtic next season.'

Dougie was one of the finest players of his era and is best known for his days with Oban Camanachd. He played a major part in their 1996 Camanachd Cup success when they beat Kingussie 3-2 in a thrilling centenary final at the Bught Park, Inverness.

Oban Camanachd were trailing 2-0 in the final before MacIntyre scored twice to level the match at the break. His brother, Gordon MacIntyre, bagged the winner midway through the second half.

Dougie MacIntyre represented Oban Celtic as a youth player in his early days, however.

Oban Celtic started training at the Oban High School all-weather pitch on Thursday January 10. The Thursday sessions take place between 7.30pm and 9pm. They have also added Tuesday sessions between 6pm and 7pm at the same venue. Oban Celtic's first team pre-season programme begins with a match against Glengarry on Saturday February 2, with the venue to be confirmed.

They follow that up a week later with the annual Robert Wylie Memorial Cup match when they play Taynuilt at Taynuilt Sports

## Oban Camanachd assistant manager

New Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss has named Kenny Wotherspoon as his assistant manager ahead of the 2019 shinty season.

Kenny comes into the post with three years' experience managing Oban Celtic, the last two of which were in the Marine Harvest National Division.

More in next week's Oban Times, Thursday January 24.

Field. Oban Celtic also take on Inveraray on Saturday February 23, with the venue for that match also still to be confirmed.

Oban Celtic have also confirmed they will continue with a second team in Marine Harvest South Division 2 next season. This will give their senior side a valuable back-up and help continue to develop the club's younger players.

## Daniel Cameron continues as Oban Camanachd captain

Daniel Cameron will again captain Oban Camanachd for the 2019 shinty season.

The versatile Daniel is the choice of new manager Stephen Sloss. It will be a second season as skipper for Daniel after leading the side to Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup success last term.

Daniel Cameron has been one of Oban Camanachd's most prominent players in recent seasons and although he missed the 2018 shinty/hurling international against Ireland, he has been a regular in the Scotland squad in recent years. He will be a popular leader in the Oban Camanachd camp.

Oban Camanachd will look to better last season's fifth-placed finish in the Marine Harvest Premiership, as well as defending the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup.

## Lochaber re-advertise management posts

Lochaber have re-advertised for first and second team managers for the 2019 shinty season. The club's



Oban Celtic committee member Davie Hamilton, centre, flanked by new management team Les Kinvig, left, and Dougie MacIntyre.

original advert last month hasn't attracted any suitable candidates so they continue their search for replacements for Lachlan Campbell, who finished last season in charge of the Lochaber seniors, and John Fraser, who led their second team.

Anyone interested should contact Aileen Campbell on 07760 155313 or email aileenrecampbel@hotmail.co.uk. Alternatively they can contact John Delaney by email at johndelnevis@gmail.com

Despite not having a boss, Lochaber are still putting a pre-season schedule together. They travel to Cannich on Saturday February 9 to play Strathglass with the annual Murdo MacKenzie Memorial Cup at stake. Lochaber will play Skye Camanachd a week later. That match is scheduled for Spean Bridge but could be switched to Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, if the weather isn't favourable. There are another couple of fixtures in the pipeline, but they are not yet confirmed.

Lochaber Ladies have organised three pre-season friendlies, all at home if the weather allows. Glenurquhart Ladies visit Spean Bridge on Sunday January 27 with Fort William and Strathspey providing the opposition the following two Sundays.

## Kilmallie prepare for top flight

New Kilmallie manager John Stewart is getting his squad ready

for a return to the Marine Harvest Premiership.

Training is already under way. It got off to a great start with more than 30 players attending both of the first week's sessions.

Kilmallie have arranged a friendly match against Inverness at the Bught Park on Saturday February 9. Throw-up is at 1pm.

They then travel to face Beaulie at Braeview Park on Saturday February 16 with a noon start.

Kilmallie's final pre-season test is a clash with neighbours Fort William at Canal Parks on Saturday February 23 with the BSW Cup at stake.

It has been a sad time for everyone connected with Kilmallie as, last Saturday, they attended the funeral of Lynsey MacPherson, wife of former manager Mark MacPherson. Many people from throughout the shinty world paid their respects.

## Skye Camanachd seconds management arrangements

Skye Camanachd have confirmed their new second team management arrangements for the new shinty season.

Kenny MacLeod, who led the side last term, has stepped up to take over the first team along with Allan MacLeod. He has been replaced by a pool of coaches who will look after the reserves. The pool includes David Grant, Iain Murray, David Pringle and Ewen MacKinnon and the monthly arrangement will be

co-ordinated by club vice president Thomas Wilson.

The model is one similar to that operated by the Kingussie second team last season.

Skye will host their inter-island Ewen Morrison Memorial Cup match at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, on Saturday February 2. They then play Lovat for the George Michie Memorial Cup at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, a week later. Skye round off their pre-season against Lochaber at Spean Bridge on Saturday February 16, although that match will be reversed to Portree if the weather isn't favourable. They are then away to Kinlochshiel on the final Saturday of February.

## Ballachulish management team

Ballachulish will be led by a management team of Morgan Smith and Alan 'Pele' Clark in Marine Harvest South Division 1 next season.

The club, who will be captained by Cain MacPhee, are putting together their pre-season fixtures.

## Glengarry tournament

There will be a full house at Glengarry's annual indoor tournament to contest the Johnstone Rose Bowl at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on Saturday January 26.

Skye Camanachd Ladies were winners in 2018, beating Badenoch and Strathspey in the final. Badenoch and Strathspey were successful 12 months earlier but Skye won the tournament in 2014, 2015 and 2016, making them the team to beat.

There will also be a player of the tournament award, won by Skye's Caitlin Maclean last year.

The competition starts at noon.

The Johnstone Rose Bowl was donated to Glengarry Girls Shinty Club in 1998 - a year after the team was formed - by Mrs Ailsa Johnstone of DA Johnstone and Son Contractors, Invergarry, which have been loyal sponsors since.

## Same again at Newtonmore

It's the same again following Newtonmore's annual general meeting at the Balavil Hotel.

There is no surprise that following a season in which the Newtonmore

first team won the Premiership, the Camanachd Cup and the MacTavish Cup, Paul John MacKintosh stays on as first team manager. The Macaulay Cup was the only trophy that eluded the senior side.

Newtonmore have pre-season friendly matches against Caberfeidh and Glenurquhart before they welcome Oban Camanachd to the Eilan on Saturday February 23.

Paul John MacKintosh will be without the retired Norman Campbell this season and Neil Stewart.

It's the same story with the Newtonmore second string as Orsten Gardner, who led the side to the North Division 1, Sutherland Cup and Strathdearn Cup treble last term, remains as boss for the 2019 season.

## Kingussie Young Guns come out on top

The Kingussie Young Guns lifted the Bob Sinclair Memorial Trophy with a 5-3 New Year's Day victory over the Kingussie Veterans at Market Stance.

The Kingussie Veterans were winners last year and although Kevin Thain and a John Gibson double meant they were never out of this game, Savio Genini netted twice for the Young Guns with Alexander Michie and Roddy Young also scoring.

The Bob Sinclair Memorial Trophy was presented to Young Guns' captain Robert Mabon by Sandra Sinclair and Donnie Grant.

## Lovat make early start to new season

Lovat, fresh from their Lovat Cup win over Beaully, will be one of the first teams in action this pre-season when they play Strathglass at Cannich on Saturday January 19. Lovat have away games at Caberfeidh and Skye Camanachd during the first two Saturdays in February. Fraser Gallacher's side, boosted by the return of Ryan Ferguson and Mark Kelly and the signing of Fraser Heath, which compensates for the loss of Drew Howie who is abroad, finish their pre-season at home to Beaully on Saturday February 23. That match marks the official opening of the club's impressive new clubhouse.

## Glenurquhart pre-season

New Glenurquhart co-managers Stuart MacKintosh and Eddie Tembo have set their side's pre-season programme. Glenurquhart host Fort William at Blairbeg on Saturday February 9, before welcoming Newtonmore a week later. Glenurquhart are off to Cannich on Saturday February 23 for their annual MacDonald Cup clash. The Glenurquhart seconds also have a busy pre-season as their Inverness counter-parts visit Blairbeg on Saturday February 2. They follow that up with trips to Boleskine, Beaully and Strathglass the following three Saturdays.

## Recruitment drive

Glasgow Mid Argyll are looking to recruit new players for the forthcoming 2019 shinty season. The club competes at different levels in both men's and women's competitions and would welcome new shinty players of all abilities.

The Glasgow Mid Argyll first team, managed this year by former Oban Celtic player Mark Bain, has had their Marine Harvest National Division chances boosted by the news that Oliver MacRae will join them from Kinlochshiel after relocating to the central belt, whilst former Lochaber player John Sweeney is another new recruit.

GMA visit Oban on Saturday February 9 when their first and second teams play Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers at Mossfield.

The Glasgow side follow that up with matches against Inveraray and Kingussie the following two Saturdays. Anyone interested in joining GMA should either leave a private message on the club's Facebook page or email GMAShinty@mail.com.

## MacVicar continues in charge at Col Glen

Ronnie MacVicar continues as Col Glen team manager.

Ronnie replaced Peter Kennedy and Brian McNaughton at the start of last season and led the side to a fifth-place finish in Marine South Division 1, only trailing Aberdour in fourth spot on goal difference. The team had finished ninth the year before.

## Aberdour seek new players

Aberdour Shinty Club are looking to recruit senior male and female players for the 2019 season.

The club has men's first and second teams along with a women's side and a women's development squad. If you would like to get involved, contact Maggie at aberdourshintyclub@gmail.com or send a personal message to the Aberdour Shinty Club FB page.

## Inverness awards

Inverness announced their annual awards at a dinner dance at the Loch Ness Country House Hotel.

With Allan MacLeod compering the evening, Arran MacMaster was named first team player of the year, whilst keeper Colin Fraser collected the second team player of the year prize. The U21 player of the year was James MacKenzie and another promising youngster, Finlay Calder, was the U17 winner. Katie McMillan was the Inverness Ladies player of the year with Joni Kate Reid taking the development accolade.

The ladies U16 player of the year was Caitlin Mutch and Melissa MacKay was awarded the U14 prize.

Volunteer of the year Drew McNeil as well as Callum McLeod, Graham MacKay and Lynn McNeil were amongst others acknowledged for their efforts.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £900

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

### Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

### Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

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**Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses.** The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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## LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:  
**A MacLulich Tarbert**  
**A MacDonald Oban**

OT

## ATHLETICS



Under-11 high jumper Ruby Dunlop from Ardrishaig.

08\_a35MidArgyllAthletics12

## Athletic club's indoor competitions return

Mid Argyll Athletic Club are reminding boys and girls in the local area that their annual indoor competition takes place on Saturday January 19 in the games hall and gymnasium at Lochgilhead Joint Campus. The competition starts at noon with all entries on the day from 11.30am.

Specialist equipment is used for various running, jumping and throwing events for six age groups starting at under-seven up to under-17 with age qualification as on September 1, 2018. An entry fee of £2 per competitor will be levied or £5 for families of three or more members.

Medals will be awarded to all competitors with trophies for the individual winners in each age category. Successful athletes will qualify to compete in the Argyll final to be held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on Sunday March 24.

The Mid Argyll event on January 19 is the first of four local area competitions being held in Argyll this winter promoted by the local club with support from Mull Athletic Club, Campbeltown Running Club and Atlantis Leisure.

The next competition is at Tobermory High School on Saturday February 2, followed by Oban on Sunday February 24. A date has still to be confirmed for the Kintyre competition at Campbeltown Grammar School but it is likely to be in early March.

There is an extra incentive for the under-12 boys and girls as teams will be selected after the Mid Argyll local competition to take part in the Scottish Athletics U/12 superteams national event at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow on Sunday February 10.

The competition on January 19 is an ideal opportunity for young boys and girls to come along and try athletics for the first time in a dry and warm environment.

### SCOTTISH AMATEUR LEAGUE

## Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Scottish Cup fifth round replay – Oban Saints 2, Rothie Rovers 2 (aet). Rothie won 9-8 on penalties; Jimmy Marshall Cup, first round Glenburn Athletic 4, Campbeltown Pupils 1; Tarbert 7, Cardross 1; Lochgilhead Red Star, no game.

This Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup, 4th round – Oban Saints v Thorn Athletic; Premier Division One – Hillington v Campbeltown Pupils; Port Glasgow v Lochgilhead Red Star; Premier Division Two – Villa Park v Tarbert

### OBAN SAINTS YOUTHS

## Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Finnart 6, Under 13s 2. Scoring for Saints were Gabriel Tidser and Aidan MacDonald Cambuslang Colts 0, Under 14s 6; On target for Saints were Kyle Cooper (3), Innes Jackson and Andrew Nicol. Under 15s 0, Drumchapel 9; Ardencaple 5, Under 16s 1. Saints scorer was Conor Moore.

This Sunday's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Under 14s v Erskine Yellows; Under 15s v Lochgilhead Red Star; Under 16s v Winto. Rovers.

# Green Machine get

Loch Lomond	21
Oban Lorne	29

Tennent's West Division 2

Oban Lorne travelled to Alexandria to play Loch Lomond on Saturday with the Green Machine looking to get back to their winning ways after a run of defeats in recent games.

With a number of players missing due to work commitments, injuries and illness, it was a depleted squad that made the journey down the road.

The coaching team would like to publicly thank the MacLachlan brothers, Calum and Lorne, for answering an SOS and going above and beyond the call of duty to help out on Saturday – a measure of their continued commitment to the club.

Lorne, seeing the number of call-offs due to the sickness bug doing the rounds, decided to travel having been rested for the game as he was carrying a bit of a shoulder injury. His brother Calum, currently recuperating from surgery on his knee, agreed to go via Lochgilhead to pick up Daniel Broderick, who had missed his connection after working a nightshift.

### Big ask

With club coach Andrew Johnston also having to pull on the boots for the first time in 18 months to make up the numbers in the front row, this was going to be a big ask.

Oban were keen to keep the ball away from the large home pack who had caused some problems for the Green Machine in the first fixture earlier in the season.

The Oban side were looking to keep the ball moving and attack the width utilising their dangerous backline.

After a bright start, Craig Wright was first to get on the scoresheet after 12 minutes with a trademark dash down the wing outpacing the cover defence for yet another try in a remarkable season. Finlay Carmichael converted the extras to give Oban a 7-0 lead.

Straight from the kick-off, Owen McDonald showed exactly what Oban have been missing with a fantastic surge. Catching the kick-off on the 10m line, he broke a number of tackles before surging into the home 22 and crossing the line for a fantastic try. This time the conversion was missed but Oban were 12-0 up.

Lorne were playing well, keeping the tempo high but the conditions were tricky and a number of knock-ons and handling errors were always going to be part of the game. The Oban pack were struggling to secure the scrum with the much heavier Lomond eight dominating all day.

Time and again the Oban pack were marched back with the sheer weight of the Lomond pack. As a result of this, Oban were giving away penalties which were giving Lomond opportunities to clear their lines and put pressure on the Oban defence.

After enduring a good spell of pressure, Oban broke out of defence again on the half-hour mark and, after some good link up work, they took play deep into the Lomond 22. After a number of pick and goes McDonald was on hand again to crash over the line from five yards and extend Oban's lead to 17 points with another fine try. Carmichael was on target again with the conversion to extend the lead to 19-0.

Oban had their tails up and

were soon to extend their lead again as scrum-half Vasco scored a cracking try after some fantastic interplay between the forwards and backs. Keeping the ball moving with offloads out of the tackle and some great lines of running by the backs created the space and the Bulgarian international was on hand to take the Oban lead out to 24 points while at the same time securing the bonus point try.

This brought an end to the first half with Oban leading 24-0. The coaching team made one change at half-time with Daniel Broderick replacing Lorne MacLachlan.

### Capitalise

Oban were soon to extend their lead early in the second half when Craig Wright was quick to capitalise on a poor Lomond kick out of defence and ran the ball in for his second try of the game.

A mistake in fielding the kick-off gave Lomond possession of the ball and they came hard at the Oban defence with a number of pick and goes. Some resilient Oban defending was eventually beaten when the big prop crashed over the line after 50 minutes.

With the Oban pack under pressure at every scrum, Lomond were able to keep turning the screw and Oban spent most of the second half defending with the odd break out of defence but never threatening the Lomond line again.

Coach Johnston lasted till the 70th minute before leaving the pitch with a shoulder injury and this forced a bit of a reshuffle with MacLachlan returning to the field again.

With five minutes of the match remaining, Lomond were pressing the Oban line with Oban defending well



Oban Lorne pictured after their win over Loch Lomond.

putting bodies on the line time and again.

There were some fantastic tackles going in but there were also some lapses which ended with a number of penalties being awarded to Loch Lomond.

From one of these penalties, Lomond surged over the line again with their big guys really hard to stop when they get a run on the ball from five yards out. Scrum-half Vasco injured his knee in defending this and looks like he is going to miss the next few weeks.

It was all Loch Lomond in the last few minutes but the

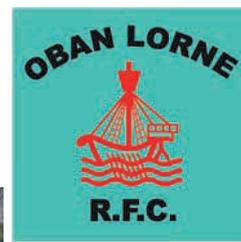


## Oban Lorne hold World Rugby first aid course

Six coaches from Oban Lorne RFC and Etive Vikings RFC attended a world rugby first aid in rugby Level 1 course last Sunday at Oban Lorne's Glencruitten clubhouse.

The course was delivered by Ailsa McAleer from Lochaber RFC, who has recently qualified as a First Aid Coach Educator

# back on track



Oban defence held up well to repel the Lomond charges.

The referee was losing patience with the number of penalties being given away by Oban as they were throwing themselves into every tackle desperately trying to protect their line.

With the last movement of the game he awarded Lomond a penalty try because of persistent infringements by Oban as they defended their line gallantly against the massive Lomond pack.

With the final score Loch Lomond 21, Oban Lorne 29 it was a very satisfied coach

who gathered the team at the final whistle to thank them for a fantastic performance. They had stepped up to the mark and came away with a bonus-point victory against a team that historically has always been a very tough fixture in recent years.

## Excelling

Some stand-out performances from a number of players across the team, Stanley Lister time and again stripping ball, big Eric Roberts smashing into tackles, young Kieron Morrison again excelling in the back row, scrum-half Vasco ener-

gising the team with his chat, Ferg McCoss showing some great footwork to create space out wide, Craig Wright constantly threatens whenever he gets ball in space but the man of the match performance was from the Owen McDonald. He was outstanding all day in attack and defence and it was great to have him back in the team.

This win moves Oban Lorne up to second position in the league as they overtook Uddingston who were defeated by league leaders Lenzie on Saturday.

Oban will be looking to

## RUGBY

cement second place when they welcome Uddingston to Glencruitten at 2pm on Saturday for a massive game.

Players would love to have a big home support for Saturday and as such are hoping to attract any ex-players to the club for a free pie and a pint at half-time in the game. Let's get along and support the boys as they look to overturn the defeat down the road earlier in the season.

Oban Lorne U14s also play at home this Saturday against Mid Argyll - kick-off noon.

## SWIMMING



New MACPool manager, Fiona Macalpine. 51\_a02Macpool04

# Lochgilphead's MACPool has a new manager

Lochgilphead's MACPool has finally found a new manager.

Taking over from Graham Love, who left the pool in July 2018, Lochgilphead local Fiona Macalpine will now be managing the Mid Argyll Community swimming pool.

With chairwoman Kim Ritchie introducing her with the words 'new start, new year, new team', Fiona enjoyed her first cup of coffee on the job.

Fiona said: 'I'm just getting in the door and finding my feet, looking to continue the progress that the pool has been making so far and hopefully moving on to bigger and better things.'

Fiona has made this change after working at Argyll College UHI, working with all the schools, timetabling the whole college.

She said: 'That was 17 years I'd been with the college so this will be a nice change.'

And it seems Fiona has some history with the pool.

She said: 'When the pool first opened, I was one of the first lifeguards. So it's like coming back to it. Swimming has always been there.'

MACPool board member Lynn Johnstone said: 'We're overjoyed to have her on board.'

Chairwoman Kim said: 'The whole of the board are delighted to have her onboard and looking forward to working with her on the redevelopment into 2019.'

The 22-year-old MACPool's redevelopment is ongoing, with 2018's annual general meeting in December confirming plans for the £1.5 million renovation to the MACPool. With a Scottish Land Fund grant of £315,788 offered in April, MACPool has the ability to buy the land it sits on and the surrounding buildings.

The plan is to take over the adjoining Citizens' Advice Bureau offices, to expand the MACPool building and create a soft play area and a cafe. With the added land the square outside the Citizens' Advice Bureau gives, there is also talk to adding more parking spaces.

Proposed changes also include upgrading the pool itself and the changing areas as well as a new public gallery.

In March, Kim Ritchie told the Argyllshire Advertiser: 'We see MACPool as being an essential asset to the community. We have been keeping our guard in the swim now for 22 years and we want to do it for another 22 years.'

'We think that by doing this expansion and giving these extra services we are going to provide an even better and more varied service to the people of Mid Argyll.'

by World Rugby and the Scottish Rugby Union.

Coaches on the day completed practical and theory-based tasks that will allow them to go back into their rugby environments with increased confidence when dealing with first aid situations.

Clubs in Argyll and Bute take player welfare very seriously with Sunday's course being just one of several measures clubs are taking to ensure safe club set-up for all players and members.

Thanks go to Ailsa for delivering the course and to Oban Lorne's Andrew Johnston for putting all of the arrangements in place.



Lifeguard Jack Johnson, board chairwoman Kim Ritchie, acting manager Kirsty Young, board member Lynn Johnstone, new manager Fiona Macalpine and lifeguard Skye Bruce. 51\_a02Macpool01

OT

## GOLF



Glencruitten golfer Robert MacIntyre.

## MacIntyre tees off in Abu Dhabi

Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre has secured a place in the \$7,000,000 Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship which started yesterday (Wednesday).

Robert said: 'My first European Tour adventure is certainly living up to expectations.

'After getting an exciting taste of what it's like to play on the top circuit by teeing up in four events before the festive break, I'm off on my travels again – and can't wait to get going once more.

'Along with my Bounce Sport stablemates and fellow Challenge Tour graduates Grant Forrest and Liam Johnston, I'm delighted to be taking part in the Rolex Series Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship.

'For the first time, it's a Rolex Series event and the field at Abu Dhabi Golf Club is being headed by the likes of Brooks Koepka, Dustin Johnson, Tommy Fleetwood and Henrik Stenson.

'Playing in those four events at the end of last year has given me a bit of a headstart, especially after making the cut in the Honma Hong Kong Open then finishing joint 15th in both the South African Open and the Alfred Dunhill Championship.

'Hopefully, I can perform well in Abu Dhabi, too, as that would really set me up for the rest of the season. Everyone is going to be a bit rusty so, if there's ever a week to play well, it would be probably be this week.

'I've always believed in myself, as have the team around me. It's just about seeing the results and the belief that I've got from three of my first four events is huge. In each of them, I could quite easily have been top five with the position I was in going into the last round.

'I always said that I wouldn't realise what I achieved by earning a European Tour card until I got paired with a big name and to have Ernie Els as a playing partner in three rounds and also play with Charl Schwartzel in one of those in South Africa was really special.

'It was good, of course, to spend some time at home over Christmas and New Year and I just chilled out with the majority of the family. Hogmanay was a tame one, just spending it in the house with my mum and dad – but we can still have a party if we win tournaments!

'As I head out at the start of my 2019 campaign, it's about continuing to do what I did at end of last year. It's going to be good and hopefully I can get going by posting some good scores in Abu Dhabi.'

Robert's fantastic 40-foot putt he holed in the Foshan Open is a candidate for the Challenge Tour Shot of the Year 2018.

# Saints pay the price crash out of Scot

Oban Saints	1
Rothie Rovers	1
2-2 after extra time	
Rothie won 9-8 on pens	
Scottish Cup – fifth round replay	

Oban Saints and Rothie Rovers from Aberdeenshire kept a large crowd at Glencruitten richly entertained on Saturday in a Scottish Amateur Cup fifth round replay which ultimately required a penalty shoot-out to decide the winner. After a goal a piece in the 90 minutes, followed by the same again in extra time, it was Rothie goalkeeper Lewis Milne who emerged the hero by saving two Saints penalties to give his side a 9-8 shoot-out victory and clinch a place in the last 16.

Saints made three changes to the starting 11 from the previous week's draw in Rothienorman with Ruaridh Horne, Matthew Kelly and Donald Campbell coming in at the expense of Jamie Graham, David Beaton and James Ford, who all dropped to the bench where they had Dougal Graham, Fraser MacFarlane and Shaun MacIver for company.

Saints kicked off attacking the railway line end in dull and wet conditions on a Glencruitten surface which had once again been painstakingly prepared by Argyll and Bute Council groundsman Ian Hay.

Scott Maitland and Lewis Cameron had some early joy on the left for Saints with



Daniel Croarkin is congratulated on his goal.

Maitland swinging over a dangerous second minute cross which Lewis Milne in the Rothie goal did well to hold under pressure from Craig MacEwan.

Three minutes later Milne produced the first of a string of excellent saves, getting down smartly to his right to hold a Lewis Cameron shot after the Saints wide man had beaten Gavin Smart to cut in from the left.

### Set pieces

Rothie's main threat was to come from set pieces and a tug on the shirt of Jake Stewart by Craig MacEwan gave the very impressive Rothie skipper Keith Walker the chance to put the ball into the danger area looking for the head of central defender Mark Thomson. Graham Douglas beat the big man in the air to punch to the edge

of the box, from where Jack Brown volleyed well over the crossbar.

In the 13th minute, Saints carved a way through the solid Rothie defence. However, Donald Campbell's final ball was too far in front of Matthew Kelly, allowing Lewis Milne to come off his line to gather safely at Kelly's feet.

An 18th-minute Lewis Cameron corner kick from the left found its way through to Donald Campbell at the back post whose cushioned volley back across the face of goal drifted wide of Lewis Milne's right-hand post.

So often Saints' saviour with the deadball, Willie Gemmell had a chance to make his mark in the 20th minute after Craig MacEwan had been hauled back on the edge of the box. Gemmell beat the Rothie wall but only succeeded in shaving the outside of Lewis Milne's left-hand post with the keeper rooted to the spot.

The Saints pressure was building and they took a deserved lead in the 23rd minute when a Daniel Croarkin shot from 18 yards took a deflection which deceived Lewis Milne and nestled in the bottom corner of the Rothie net.

Lewis Cameron will feel he should have done better from a good opening on the half-hour mark but Lewis Milne still required two attempts to save Cameron's effort from just inside the Rothie box.

It was Milne to the rescue once again when he pulled off the save of the match to fingertip over a looping Donald Campbell effort from 18 yards after the Saints

co-manager had escaped the close attentions of Gavin Smart and Keith Walker.

Rothie skipper Keith Walker went crashing to the ground on the edge of the Saints penalty area anticipating a challenge from opposite number Dene Cassells which never came. Referee Holms, however, was taken in and awarded the visitors a free-kick which Mark Thomson flicked on to Ryan Walker at the back post. Fortunately, Walker's header lacked the power to seriously test Graham Douglas, who made a routine catch.

Saints survived one final Rothie set piece before the interval with Dene Cassells making a decisive clearing header from a Keith Walker left wing corner which Steven MacLeod had conceded under pressure from Jake Stewart.

### Second half

The visitors started the second half in determined mood and enjoyed a good spell of pressure, keeping Saints pinned back in their own half for the opening five minutes. Saints weathered the Rothie storm and got back on the front foot with Donald Campbell and Lewis Cameron both narrowly failing to find Craig MacEwan with crosses from the left.

Craig MacEwan passed up a gilt-edged chance on the hour mark, sending a header straight down the throat of the Rothie keeper after a good give and go on the right with Ruaridh Horne.

Five minutes later, the Saints' defence was finally breached from a Rothie set piece when Mark Thomson bundled home a Keith Walker corner kick from the left.

The Rothie goalkeeper picked up a yellow card shortly after for an over-the-ball challenge on Craig MacEwan. From the resulting free-kick Lewis Milne saved with his feet to deny Donald Campbell from close range after a Craig MacEwan cutback from the left.

Saints kept pressing for the winner and introduced James Ford in the 84th minute at the expense of Daniel Croarkin to boost their attacking options.

Despite having all of the late pressure, Saints struggled to breach the well-organised Rothie defence and when they eventually did in time added on for stoppages they



Jamie Graham congratulates Dene Cassells after his late equaliser.

# Penalty as they British Cup



Saints goalkeeper Graham Douglas punches clear. Match report and photos: Derek Black

were again denied by the feet of Lewis Milne, who blocked two pointblank Saints' shots to send the tie into extra time.

## Extra time

In the fourth of the extra 30 minutes, Scott Maitland was tripped as he attempted to burst into the Rothie box. Mr Holms ruled the offence had taken place outside the box, awarding Saints a free-kick which could not possibly have been any closer to being on the line. Willie Gemmell's delivery was headed behind for a corner kick on the right from which Craig MacEwan rose well but sent his header narrowly wide of the junction of post and bar.

Sixty seconds later Saints were again undone from a set piece, much to the delight of the large travelling support. A long straight free-kick from Keith Walker was flicked on by Grant Ritchie to Ryan Walker, who volleyed past the helpless Graham Douglas to give Rothie the lead.

The interval arrived with Rothie still holding on to their slender advantage and Saints pushing Dene Cassells into attack and adding Shaun MacIver in place of Matthew Kelly.

The second half continued in the same vein with Saints pushing for the equaliser and Rothie defending doggedly.

There was a loud appeal for a penalty kick from Saints in the 23rd minute when a

Lewis Cameron cross from the right struck a defender's hand. However, Mr Holms remained unmoved.

With two minutes remaining, Shaun MacIver struck the outside of Lewis Milne's right-hand post after an almighty goalmouth scramble from a Willie Gemmell throw-in from the left.

With 60 seconds of extra time remaining, Donald Campbell spun away from his marker and was felled in the box for what appeared to be a stonewall penalty kick.

To the bemusement of all, Mr Holms bizarrely pointed the other way and issued a second yellow card to Campbell for simulation, ending the Saints co-manager's involvement in the game.

Despite the referee's apparent error, there can be no excuse for the foul and abusive language which followed from Shaun MacIver which earned the Saints substitute a straight red card. Neither can there be any excuse for MacIver's reaction to his dismissal which may yet have further repercussions for the hot-headed young striker.

Spurred on by a deep sense of injustice, the nine men miraculously drew level deep into time added on for stoppages. A straight ball over the top from Jamie Graham was glanced by Dene Cassells beyond the advancing keeper and into the top corner spark-

ing wild celebrations among the home support.

Dougal Graham made the briefest of substitute appearances replacing Steven MacLeod before the restart from where the ball hadn't left the centre circle before referee Holms blew for full-time.

## Penalties

In rapidly failing light, Mr Holms took the players away from the bulk of the crowd to the railway line end where 10 penalties each would be taken before a winner would emerge.

Saints were playing catch up right from the start when Aidan Elrick's successful kick was followed by a save by Lewis Milne to deny Dene Cassells.

Keith Walker and Lewis Cameron netted their efforts before Graham Douglas saved from Sean Bremner, giving Craig MacEwan the chance to level, which he gratefully accepted.

Some excellent penalty kicks followed with both goalkeepers also finding the net. Scorers for Rothie were Andi Bremner, Mark Thomson, Lewis Milne, Scott Chalmers, Grant Ritchie (despite Graham Douglas getting both hands to it), and Ashley Vasey.

Successful for Saints were Graham Douglas, Willie Gemmell, Scott Maitland, Dougal Graham, Jamie Graham and James Ford.

## FOOTBALL

With Saints only having nine players on the field, it was back to the start where Aidan Elrick repeated his earlier straight down the middle success. Having scored from the spot in the first match, Lewis Cameron was by now taking his third penalty kick of the tie and Lewis Milne finally won the battle of wits guessing correctly and dropping to his right to beat away Cameron's effort and seal victory for Rothie.

The Rovers from Rothie-norman will now travel to Paisley in the sixth round where they will face Alba Thistle of the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division on Saturday February 2.

Saints will feel this is a tie they should have won. However, they simply didn't do enough to overcome a hard-working Rothie team who defended resolutely and took full advantage of the few chances which came their way.

The Glencruitten faithful are in for another treat this coming Saturday when former Scottish Amateur Football League rivals Thorn Athletic come calling in the West of Scotland Cup fourth round.

The Johnstone men are currently eight points clear at the top the Caledonian League Premier Division and will provide a massive test for management duo Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell and their charges.

Kick-off at Glencruitten is 1.15pm with the prospect of extra time and penalty kicks if the two sides cannot be separated after 90 minutes.

In charge of proceedings is experienced Central Scottish League referee Michael Kerr.



Rothie bundle the ball home to make the score 1-1.



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## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
2°C to 6°C.

**Friday**  
Light cloud and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures  
2°C to 5°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
**Saturday**  
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze  
**Sunday**  
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
3°C to 6°C.



**FRIDAY**

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday January 17, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	01.56	3.1	08.04	1.7
<b>Thur</b>	15.00	3.4	20.48	1.6
<b>Fri</b>	03.08	3.3	09.16	1.5
	15.53	3.6	21.44	1.3
<b>Sat</b>	04.01	3.6	10.19	1.2
	16.39	3.8	22.35	1.0
<b>Sun</b>	04.48	3.8	11.14	1.0
	17.22	4.0	23.23	0.7
<b>Mon</b>	05.33	4.0	12.04	0.7
	18.04	4.0	** ** *	**
<b>Tues</b>	00.10	0.5	06.16	4.2
	12.52	0.6	18.45	4.1
<b>Wed</b>	00.56	0.4	06.59	4.2
	13.38	0.6	19.27	4.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry  
and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline  
by North West Marine Ltd**



**INSIDE THIS WEEK:**  
Saints pay the penalty  
as they crash out of  
Scottish Cup

**NORTH WEST  
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OBAN TIMES WEATHER  
AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 55



John McPhee in the new Petronas livery.

John McPhee in action during the two days of testing at the Ricardo Tormo Circuit in Valencia. Photos: Petronas

## McPhee prepares for new season

PETRONAS Sprinta Racing have completed their first test of the 2019 Moto3 pre-season, with two days on track at the Ricardo Tormo Circuit.

Ayumu Sasaki, ready for his third season with the team, and new signing John McPhee from Oban enjoyed two satisfactory days on track and are now looking forward and motivated for 2019.

McPhee was impressed with his first outing with his new team, the Oban rider com-

pleting 100 laps and setting a strong rhythm that also gives him high hopes for next year.

Sasaki and McPhee will now enjoy a break before returning to action in earnest in February.

Petronas team manager Johan Stigefelt said: 'We spent two days of tests with the Moto3 team in Valencia and the weather was good. It was particularly important for John to rediscover his feeling with the Honda, after a season

with another manufacturer, and he also got to know his new team.

'We have improved the bike little by little and today he put together a really good run riding alone. I think that after this test, McPhee can go to Malaysia in good shape to continue his work.

John said: 'Overall our first test was very successful. I'm going into the winter positive with my feeling from the Honda and really happy with

### MOTO3

my new crew. My pace was strong over the two days and with more pre-season testing I feel like I can be very strong come the first round of races in Qatar scheduled for March 10.'



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5 PAGE SPECIAL INSIDE

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## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £900

## COMPETITIONS

WIN AN OVERNIGHT STAY IN A ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT AND A THREE-COURSE MEAL FOR TWO IN KYLOE



# Possible deal to sell dive centre site

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

It looks like a deal may have been struck to sell the site of the former Underwater Centre in Fort William to Sanjeev Gupta's GFG Alliance, which owns the Lochaber smelter.

Operations at the world-renowned undersea diver training facility ceased in October with the loss of nearly 50 jobs and subsequent efforts by administrators to sell the business as a going concern proved unsuccessful.

This week Iain Beaton, of the Invergordon-based commercial diving services provider Caldive, told the Lochaber Times he had written to Mr Gupta urging him to withdraw GFG Alliance's bid for the centre in order to allow his own offer to be successful.

Mr Beaton said his bid was at the upper end of a commercial valuation he had obtained for

the site, including buildings and pier, which had pegged its worth at between £1.2 million and £1.55 million.

Mr Beaton wanted to buy the site in order to reopen it as a diver training base.

Asked to comment, a spokesman for the landowners, the Finlayson family, told the Lochaber Times this week: 'These matters form part of an ongoing commercial negotiation.'

### Confidential

'Like most businesses, my clients prefer to conduct their business confidentially and therefore they have no comment to make in the meantime.'

GFG Alliance is also playing its cards close to its chest, with a spokesman saying: 'We are in a confidential process so can't comment on the details.'

Mr Beaton says he is 'devastated' that he has apparently been unsuccessful and does

not see any way forward for his plans. Asked what he thought was behind GFG Alliance's interest, Mr Beaton told us: 'No idea, other than they have no intention of operating it as a dive centre and, after some 40 years, all that the centre stood for will be gone.'

'I was very keen to move this forward as a going concern and it is hugely disappointing that there now seems no way forward on this.'

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes is hopeful that when the new owner of the site is publicly confirmed it will result in an investment to benefit the area.

'The previous owners built up the business over many years and were instrumental in creating a centre of excellence in Fort William,' she said. 'Their efforts and achievements cannot be overstated, and so I am hopeful that somebody with the same commitment invests in these assets.'

## Belford beds to help refugees



Five disused hospital beds from Belford Hospital are on their way to help patients in war-torn countries. Last Friday, volunteers at Caol-based charity Lochaber Supports Refugees packed up their biggest shipment to date after the surplus beds were donated by nursing staff at the Belford. Pictured here are Shirley, Irene, Norma, Lorraine and Viv from Lochaber Supports Refugees getting the beds ready for shipment. For full story, turn to page two. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



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LT

# Lochaber refugee charity sends Belford beds abroad

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Refugees forced to flee their homes in search of solace in Europe have been feeling the warmth of a Highland welcome over the past two years, thanks to the work of a small band of Lochaber volunteers.

Now hospital patients in war-torn countries may soon benefit from that same goodwill after the team at Lochaber Supports Refugees (LSR) sent off their biggest donation so far: five hospital beds from Belford Hospital.

Surplus to requirements and gathering dust in storage, the disused beds were handed over to LSR by nursing staff at the Belford who were keen to see them put to good use. Although the final destination of the beds is yet to be confirmed, the plan is to ship them to hospitals hit by civil



war in the Middle East, which are in need of rebuilding after years of destruction.

'This is the biggest dona-

tion to date,' said Lorraine Wheelan, coordinator of the Caol-based charity, who said it was great to get support from

the Belford. 'We have donated medical equipment and supplies before but nothing of this size.

'People are so good around here. The support locally is excellent, it's brilliant and it's been continuous.'

Lesley Pow, senior staff nurse at the Belford Hospital, initially contacted LSR about the decommissioned beds.

'I hummed and hawed, not knowing what to do with them. They are decent enough so it seemed a shame to just dump them. I knew Lorraine was involved with Lochaber

**James Cameron and his team helped get the five hospital beds from storage at the Belford Hospital to the LSR's depot in Caol.**

Supports Refugees and got in touch with her.

With the help of local removal man James Cameron, the beds, along with other pieces of medical equipment, were transported to the LSR's depot in Caol.

'I'd rather see them used than thrown out,' Lesley added. 'We always keep Lorraine in mind when we need to get rid of equipment from the hospital.'

The beds were collected last Friday by Iain Elstone, from Re-Act Refugee Action Scotland, who is now preparing them for shipping overseas.

Since last November, the group of nine regular volunteers has filled 59 boxes of clothes to send overseas.

However, with the depot close to bursting point after being inundated with donations in the past two weeks, the tight-knit team is struggling to cope with the growing number of donations that keep flowing through the door.

'We need more volunteers,' Lorraine said. 'We could turn over a whole lot more than we are just now if we had more people and more storage.'

'We've been lucky with the premises we have had until now but in 2019 we will need to look for bigger premises.'

The supplies sent to LSR's depot in Caol are packaged by volunteers and then sent to Highland Supports Refugees' main depot in Conon Bridge, near Dingwall, where they are then shipped directly to refugees landing on the Greek island of Chios, near the border with Turkey.

'When you see positive feedback and see your own stuff out there with the refugees, it's a great feeling,' said Viv, a regular volunteer. 'Seeing the conditions they live in, we need to make it a bit better for them.'

**If you would like to volunteer with Lochaber Supports Refugees or can offer more storage space, contact Lorraine and the team via their Facebook page or drop into the depot in Caol Shopping Centre, which is open Monday to Fridays from 11am to 1pm.**

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## Indian tycoon buys Lochaber hotels

An Indian hotels tycoon has bought three Highland hotels, including two in Lochaber, after a holiday visit to Scotland proved so disappointing he was determined to show how a quality hotel should really be run, writes Mark Entwistle.

The hotels are the Cluanie Inn at Glenmoriston, which retains its name, the Letterfinlay Lodge, near Spean Bridge, which has been rechristened The Whispering Pine Lodge, and Craigard House at Invergarry, which becomes Rokeby Manor.

The three hotels, which are scheduled to reopen this spring, are now part of the Mars Group's Black Sheep Hotels division, run by millionaire Mumbai businessman Sanjay Narang, 56.

Mr Narang was on holiday in Inverness-shire last winter with his sister, Rachna, and



**Letterfinlay Lodge near Spean Bridge has been renamed The Whispering Pine Lodge.**

reportedly bought the hotels after paying £120 a night for what he claimed were dirty rooms, cold water and microwaved meals served by a carpenter – although none of his complaints was about the three hotels he has since purchased.

It is reported he paid almost £3 million for the three properties and intends spending almost £7 million more on refurbishment, rebranding and extensions.

Educated at a school in the

Himalayas, Mr Narang studied hotel management at Cornell University in the United States and established the Mars Group in 1991 – it is now a major force in the food and hospitality industry in India. His sister, Rachna, who also studied at Cornell University, is responsible for designing all Mars hotels and restaurants.

As part of the renovations, Mr Narang says £1.5 million will be spent on providing new staff accommodation.

# Trust founder calls for full ban on fox snares

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

The founder of the Glencoe Heritage Trust has called for an outright ban on fox snares.

Alistair MacDonald, a retired shepherd who lives in Glencoe, has hit out at the Scottish Government and national bodies for not doing enough to prevent this 'cruel' form of animal control.

Mr MacDonald, who has lifetime experience of managing land and animals, believes controlling foxes is 'an extremely skilled job' and there are 'more humane ways' to do it than using snares.

'I'm not trying to save the foxes or protect them particularly but the way they go about it is cruel,' he said. 'If it's cruel to chase a fox across a field, it must be cruel to hang it on a fence.'

Mr MacDonald also said that snares, which are still legal to use, pose a threat to the welfare of other animals too.

'There's no such thing as a snare that catches a specific animal,' he continued. 'If you had a dog that's the same size as a fox, then how does it get



Example of an illegal fox snare. Photograph: snarewatch.org

through the snare? They catch all sorts of animals other than foxes, such as badgers, sheep and even otters.'

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) produced a report on snaring in March 2017, at the request of the Scottish Government, which stated that the Review of Snaring Group was satisfied that the number of reported incidents of snaring-related offences has reduced and that the administration procedure was satisfactory.

The report also suggested several changes to legislation, which included reducing

the legal size of snares used. However, Mr MacDonald believes that the regulations do not go far enough and claims fox snaring is still common practice among gamekeepers.

'It can be a week before the snares are checked,' he said. 'Using snares has not reduced the number of foxes by one. If gamekeepers are banned from snaring, there won't be an explosion of foxes.'

## Offence

Scottish SPCA chief superintendent Mike Flynn did confirm that there is 'strict legislation to adhere to when setting a snare' for it to be lawful and failure to comply with these conditions could constitute a criminal offence.

He said: 'Our position has long been that we support a full ban on the use of snares. We believe no indiscriminate method of killing wild animals should be used.'

'We are opposed to the manufacture and use of all snares and any trap which causes suffering.'

If anyone finds a snare, leave it untouched and contact SSPCA on 03000 999 999 if it is believed to have been set illegally.

## Man arrested in Lochaber in connection with bogus workman allegations

Police in Lochaber have confirmed that a 27-year-old man has been arrested in connection with alleged consumer protection offences in Fort William.

It follows an investigation by Police Scotland and Highland Council Trading Standards, after a report was received this week of bogus workmen in Fort William and alleged fraudulent activity relating to charges for work carried out on a house in the town.

The male was released pending further inquiries.

Constable Gavin Law, based at Fort William Police Station, said: 'Bogus callers remain a persistent problem in our communities and can result in people being scammed out of a significant amount of money and left with a poor standard of work and, on occasions, left in dangerous condition.'

Mark McGinty, Trading Standards team leader, added: 'Cancellation rights exist to allow householders to change their mind when an uninvited caller persuades them to contract at their home.'

'Bogus workmen, that is, illegal trade, often have no regard for consumer rights, they will often hide their identity because they simply do not wish to engage after they have taken the money, often for very substandard works.'

If you have any concerns with regards to doorstep crime, please contact Highland Council Trading Standards on 01463 228700, email trading\_standards@highland.gov.uk, or call Police Scotland on 101 or 999 in an emergency situation.

## Shiel Buses wins government support for upgrade to contactless payments

Shiel Buses is one of 23 bus operators in Scotland to receive funding to support the financial costs of upgrading ticket machines to accept contactless bank card payments.

Nearly half a million pounds has been awarded in the first round of the Smart Pay Grant Fund: £447,850 has been

awarded from the Scottish Government and European Regional Development Fund to support bus operators across the country.

The fund builds on the successful roll-out of contactless payment by the country's largest operators and responds to feedback from smaller operators

around the financial barriers to upgrading.

The Scottish Government's vision is that all journeys on the country's public transport networks can be made using some form of smart ticketing or payment and passengers can expect to benefit from this payment option as of spring 2019.

## Works begins on puffin crossing at Corpach

Work was due to start this week on the new £90,000 puffin crossing being installed on the A830 in Corpach, writes Mark Entwistle.

The new puffin crossing – which is controlled by sensors mounted on the lights that can detect whether any pedestrians are on the crossing and changes the colour of the lights accordingly – will replace the existing uncontrolled crossing point near the Co-op store, allowing pedestrians safely to cross the A830 and help improve road safety on the route.

As well as the installation of the new traffic signals, work will include drainage improvements, carriageway resurfacing, footway reconstruction, new road markings and signage improvements.

The improvements were scheduled to start on Monday and will take up to five weeks to complete, with works taking place between 9.30am and 4pm from Mondays to Fridays during the project.

To ensure the safety of road workers and motorists, temporary traffic lights will be in place on the A830 in Corpach during working hours. Temporary pedestrian access will be arranged throughout the works to allow safe access through the site. All traffic management will be removed outside of working hours to keep any disruption to road users to a minimum.

Consultation has been carried out with the local community council, the local authority, businesses,

residents and other relevant stakeholders to make them aware of the plans and share information about the project.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north-west representative, said: 'The new controlled crossing facility in Corpach will allow users to safely cross this section of the A830, helping to improve road safety for the community.'

'The traffic management arrangements are essential for the protection of our workforce as well as motorists and pedestrians. However, we've arranged these works to take place during the daytime and our teams will do all they can to complete the project as quickly and as safely as possible.'

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## Upper Achintore housing plans await approval

Highland Council has this week submitted plans for the first phase of a housing development on the site of a former primary school in Fort William.

The council plans to build 38 mixed dwelling houses, for social rent and mid-market rent, on the site of the former Upper Achintore Primary School, which was officially closed in 2015 and demolished in November last year.

The development will comprise a mix of affordable housing, ranging from one bedroom flats to four bedroom detached houses. According to the planning statement, the houses have been designed to take advantage of the views towards Loch Linnhe while generating a floor plan that maximises the views and affords opportunities to harness as much solar

gain as possible. The public was invited to give their views on Highland Council's plans at a public drop-in event at Lundavra Primary School last month.

In a separate application, a second housing development is being planned for Upper Achintore, at a site accessed via Connachie Road behind Lochaber Road.

Private property developer Link Group submitted a pre-planning application to build up to 400 houses last month.

The company intends to submit a formal application for planning permission for phase one of the project, consisting of up to 200 dwellings, in the near future.

If both plans are approved, developers hope work on both developments will get under way by mid-2019.

# Weekly shopping spend could soar

## 'No deal' Brexit sparks food price hike fears

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

The weekly food spend for Lochaber residents could increase by up to 4.2 per cent in the event of a 'no deal' Brexit, after new research from the British Retail Consortium (BRC) was published this week.

Lochaber MP Ian Blackford has warned constituents that in the event of the UK reverting to World Trade Organisation rules, tariffs with trading partners, such as the EU, would see an increase in the cost of importing food between eight per cent and 32 per cent.

This translates into a potential 4.2 per cent weekly increase on food spending for each individual within



Ian Blackford MP

a Lochaber household. The research comes after a parliamentary briefing for MPs from the British Retail Consortium who have drafted a 20-page report on their Brexit concerns. On return to Parliament after the

Christmas recess, MPs voted in favour of not supporting a potential 'No deal' scenario.

After attending the BRC briefing, Mr Blackford said: 'What is one of the only certainties throughout this whole Brexit mess is that a 'No deal' situation would be a complete disaster for every man, woman and child of the Highlands, of Scotland and of the UK. All the analysis show this and the BRC has again confirmed this upon our return to Parliament.'

'The BRC analysis looks at how much food supermarkets imported from the EU and assessed the impact that both WTO tariffs and non-tariff barriers would have on the prices. It also modelled the potential response from domestic and

non-EU food manufacturers to determine an upper and lower bound impact on the cost of groceries for the average household in each constituency – adjusting for differences in both regional and constituency spending patterns.

'What it amounts to is a significant increase in the price of our food, that's the bottom line. For people who are already just about managing, this is devastating and for those who aren't managing at all it is even worse.'

'No government anywhere in the world could allow a scenario that makes the people significantly poorer. Parliament has already refused to give its consent to this disaster, the threat must be taken off the table.'

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## Businessman appointed to chamber role

Well-known Lochaber businessman Frazer Coupland has been appointed the new chief executive officer of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Coupland, a stalwart of the Lochaber business community and passionate supporter of Lochaber business and tourism industry, brings substantial and wide-ranging business experience to the role.

As well as being the former head of the Outdoor Capital of the UK tourism initiative, Mr Coupland has been one half of the No Fuss Events company for the past 12 years.

'I'm delighted to take on my new role as chief executive officer of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce,' Mr Coupland said. 'The team has been doing a fantastic job in delivering benefits for members. I look forward to working with all our members to keep building on our successes and to help make Lochaber the best place to live, work, study and visit in the UK.'

Bruno Berardelli, president of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, welcomed Mr



Frazer Coupland.

Coupland's appointment. He said: 'Frazer's passion for Lochaber shines through in his approach to business and life. He was the unanimous choice of the recruitment panel. His business ideas, commitment, drive and collaborative approach make him a great choice to lead the chamber.'

Mr Coupland takes over the reins at the top job from Lesley Benfield who is moving on to become programme director for the Scottish Government's Developing the Young Workforce West Highland programme.

The chamber thanks Lesley for her considerable efforts as chief executive over the last five years.

## Plans to convert Lochailort church into private house

Plans have been submitted to Highland Council for planning permission to convert Polish Chapel at Lochailort into a private house.

Built around 1872, it is understood it has not been a place of worship since around

1986. Planning approval was previously granted in 2001 for conversion to a house and for a draining system in 2004, but neither approval was implemented and both have now lapsed. The planning application states the current

owners are 'very aware' of the building's history and local importance, and are keen to carry out a 'sensitive conversion with minimal intervention'. Oban architects Bruce and Neil will design the conversion.

## Mallaig Pool and Leisure needs more 'Friends'

Mallaig Pool and Leisure has appealed for more helpers as the current team looks to step down.

The leisure centre has been supported over the past 25 years by the Friends of Mallaig Pool and Leisure, a dedicated group of volunteers who help fund wages, buy fitness equipment, fund vital repairs and help with yearly budgets.

In a statement issued earlier this week, the management said: 'The Friends has been run by the same volunteers for more years than we can count. We're so grateful for everything they've done and all the time they've given. However, they now want to step aside and pass on the baton.'

The pool is looking for a chairman, treasurer, events manager and secretary, as well as general members. Formal meetings take place every two months with a goal of raising £10,000 each year.

For more details drop into the Mallaig leisure centre at Fank Brae or contact mallaig@btconnect.com

# Lochaber pupil's climate strike action to continue

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The Lochaber High School teenager who staged a walk-out on Friday in protest at the lack of action to tackle climate breakdown intends continuing her weekly strikes.

Second-year pupil Holly Gillibrand, 13, was joined by her mother, a friend and three other adults on the pavement outside the school for an hour from 8.45am on Friday.

Although only a very small demonstration, Holly's mum Kate Willis said there was plenty of shows of support, with drivers honking their horns and some shouting encouragement from their vehicles.

'The Lochaber Times story was followed up in The Herald, The National and the Press and Journal,' said Ms Willis this week.

Holly, from Kinlocheil, was

'We have heard some other students are keen to join in the Friday climate strikes, as well as a few more adults.'

inspired to take action by the recent speech given at the recent UN summit on climate change in Poland by teenage climate campaigner Greta Thunberg.

The address by the 15-year-old from Sweden went viral after she shamed climate change negotiators over their lack of progress.

Ms Willis added: 'We have heard some other students are keen to join in the Friday climate strikes, as well as a few more adults.'

'While there was not a huge



Lochaber High School pupil Holly Gillibrand, front right, organised Friday's protest. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

turnout on Friday, I think Holly's action will have raised awareness of climate issues in the school to very nearly 100 per cent of the student body.

Holly and her mum are hoping more Lochaber High

School pupils will join her for February 15's UK-wide school strike over climate breakdown.

Ms Willis is also a member of the new Fort William branch of the Extinction

Rebellion protest movement on climate change, which stages its first meeting on Tuesday January 22 in the town's Duncansburgh Hall.

She added: 'It would be best if any young people wanting to join Holly make sure their parents give their consent and notify the school.'

Asked to comment on the school strike action, a Highland Council spokesperson said: 'The Highland Council's programme includes a specific commitment to introduce a range of strategies and plans to support our commitment to sustainability.'

'The programme is committed to foster sustainable local communities and to developing a sustainable local workforce.'

'The education authority cannot sanction unauthorised absence from school, no matter how well-meaning the intention.'

## Your area, your views: public invited to have their say on Fort William locality plan

Residents, organisations and businesses in some areas of Fort William will be given the opportunity over the coming weeks to tell the Lochaber Community Partnership (LCP) how their area can be improved.

The Partnership is inviting people who live or run businesses in the catchment area for Lundavra Primary School (including Upper Achintore, Plantation, An Aird, Achintore Road/Seaford Gardens, Belford Road, Cameron Road, Alma Road, Victoria Road and the High Street) to take part in a survey to develop a Fort William Locality Plan.

The LCP core partners – Highland Council, NHS Highland, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Highlands and Islands Enterprise are working with many other organisations with the aim being to address inequalities. Similar work is already under way in Caol and Kinlochleven.

Within Lochaber, these

three communities have been identified as currently experiencing higher levels of inequality, hence agencies and partners focusing efforts on them.

The partnership hopes to capture views from as many people as possible. The survey is looking for views on transport links, how safe the area feels, the environment, facilities, services and amenities, local employment, housing and opportunities to participate in and influence community life.

Councillor Andrew Baxter, Highland Council's area chairman for Lochaber, said: 'This work is part of a Highland-wide community planning focus on inequalities. The five core partners along with a significant number of other groups are working together to identify improvements which will make a real and positive difference to people.'

'This survey is the start of that process and I would encourage as many residents

of the area as possible to take part.'

The survey can be completed online at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk) and is also available in paper copy from Highland Council Service Point and Fort William library.

The survey is open until the end of March 2019. Feedback is vital and everyone living and operating businesses in this geographical area within Fort William is encouraged to complete a survey so an accurate picture of community life and the area is created.

The Fort William Community Action Group (consisting of LCP partners and community organisations) will then review responses; put in place and implement an action plan to address areas contributing to greater inequality. The plan will also help direct existing resources.

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# Tributes paid to Bobby Corson

'Lochaber's longest serving funeral director'  
Born: June 26, 1932; Died: December 19, 2018

Bobby Corson, who has died aged 86, was a pillar of community life in Mallaig and the surrounding area for nearly 60 years.

Bobby was born in Kirkconnel, Dumfries-shire to Joe and Rosina Corson, and grew up in Dumfries before the family moved to Inverloch when his father got a job with the BA.

As a schoolchild, Bobby worked at Marshall and Pearson, then upon leaving school, he started with John McLellan's [funeral directors], working closely with Johnnie the Blunt and Bob Dixon as an apprentice joiner.

In the late 1940s, when just a teenager, Bobby was a founding member of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team. He regularly put himself at risk to help others in trouble, alongside good friends Alan

Burgan (who sadly passed away a few months previously) and Jimmy Ness, who is now the last surviving founder. Jimmy recalls many a precarious situation he, Bobby, and the rest of the team found themselves in up on the Ben. No matter how grim the situation was, though, when asked how he was doing, Bobby's response was always the same: 'No' bad.'

In October 1960, Bobby was sent a letter from a couple in Surrey, who wrote to him, thanking him for saving the life of their son in August of that year, following an accident on Ben Nevis which claimed the life of their son's friend.

From its condition, it's clear that Bobby treasured this letter. But, to the best of our knowledge, he never once spoke about it. Arrogance and

pride were never things he entertained.

In the late 1950s, Bobby met a young lady by the name of Jessie Hutchison at the dances, and they married in 1959, soon after Bobby completed his National Service. They moved to Mallaig the following year and quickly became part of the community. Bobby worked as a joiner for Grieves. The family was complete with the arrival of daughter Anne in the 1960s.

On the death of the local joiner/undertaker Jimmy McPherson, Bobby started out on his own, supported by his wife Jessie, who was the secretary of Mallaig Secondary School until her retirement in 2003. Bobby and Jessie were so committed to the community they served, they never ventured far together – they would take it in turns to

visit their daughter Anne and grandson Andrew in Kent, so that no funerals were delayed.

The only time in recent years they travelled south together was in 2013 when Jessie was awarded her MBE. The award was a huge surprise as Jessie felt they were just doing their bit for the community.

Bobby was a man of principle and integrity. He had a strong moral compass and an incredible work ethic.

He was careful and conscientious, always ready to share his years of knowledge and experience with those working alongside him. Such as while working in the attic space of the Chlachain, he made a point of alerting those he was working with to the dangers of the open loft hatch – before an accidental backwards step saw him plummet through it himself.

He had a mischievous side to him and would love to tease the school children. Bobby was responsible for helping dozens of children across Lochaber stop picking their noses after he told them of his own nose-picking habit, and then show them his missing finger to alert them to the dire consequences.

Beneath the wind-up merchant was a man who would go out of his way to lend others a hand. Who, like Jessie,



Bobby Corson.

didn't just live in the community but served it tirelessly. Whether helping with funeral arrangements for a friend or neighbor, or latterly, helping entertain the residents at the Mackintosh Centre, Bobby always put the needs of others before his own.

In 2017, aged 85 years, Bobby started to build an extension to the house so their grandson could come and stay. Never a man to ask for help, he could be seen on the roof doing all the work himself. He never wanted anyone to make a fuss over him, and while he may not have been renowned for showing his emotions, he cared deeply for his friends, his neighbours and, of course, his family.

December 2017 saw the passing of his dear wife Jessie. This was a huge blow to Bobby. He missed her terribly, and at the beginning of 2018 Bobby decided to hang up his hat for

the final time and retire from conducting funerals.

This was shortlived as Bobby couldn't just put his feet up and retire. This earned him the title of Lochaber's longest serving funeral director, a title which no other can get close to.

Over the course of 2018, Bobby suffered ill health, passing away with his daughter by his side in the Mackintosh Centre just days after the anniversary of Jessie's death.

Bobby's only wish was that he was to leave from his home going directly to the cemetery. This was honoured along with Bobby resting at home prior to his funeral in the extension that he never got to see finished.

Lochaber has lost a humble man of skill, conscientious and integrity. RIP, Bobby. 'See you in the Chlachain.'

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## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Drop in for coffee and a chat at Lochaber Chamber's Tourism Roadshow.

Join us to discuss your tourism questions, get face-to-face information and advice from industry experts and let us know your views on the hot tourism issues of the day.

We're bringing tourism industry experts on the road through the Outdoor Capital of the UK, along with our Chamber membership and marketing teams on Wednesday and Thursday, February 6 and 7.

Come along to meet Stephanie from Expedia and Ian from Free to Book online booking platforms to find out how they can work with you to grow your business and get a feel for the future of online tourism booking. Talk tourist



tax with Chris Simpson, Highland Council's principal officer for Europe, tourism and film.

Find out how Cassie McEwan, VisitScotland's industry relationship manager for Lochaber, can help you promote your business.

Discuss future trends and what you can do to stay ahead of the curve with Chris Taylor, VisitScotland's regional leadership director for the Highlands. These informal drop-in sessions bring you the opportunity to

ask the questions that matter to you and have a face-to-face chat with key players in our tourism industry.

Book the stop on the roadshow that is most convenient for you.

Ballachulish roadshow: Wednesday February 6, 9am to noon, Ballachulish Hotel.

Strontian roadshow: Wednesday February 6: 1-4pm: Ariundle Centre, Strontian.

Arisaig roadshow: Thursday February 7: 9am to noon, Arisaig House, Arisaig.

Fort William roadshow: Thursday February 7: 1-4pm, The Moorings Hotel, Fort William.

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# Jahama Estates boss jumps ship

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Duncan Mackison, the chief executive of Jahama Highland Estates which manages the 114,000 acres of land for the owners of the Liberty British Aluminium smelter at Fort William, is to join CalMac owner David MacBrayne Ltd.

The board of David MacBrayne announced on Tuesday that former Royal Marines officer Mr Mackison would be its new group chief executive and will start on March 1.

Jahama Highland Estates is a subsidiary of Lochaber smelter owner GFG Alliance, which intends to build an alloy car wheels plant nearby.

Mr Mackison took up the role with Jahama Highland Estates in the summer of 2017 amid much fanfare over GFG



Alliance's plans for its new projects in Lochaber.

MacBrayne's chairman David McGibbon said the board was delighted to announce the appointment.

'Duncan brings considerable marine experience to this role. He is a former Royal Marine commando officer and, more recently, was managing director of Serco Defence, where he had responsibility for managing aviation and maritime contracts for the Ministry of

Defence. This included the provision of vessels to provide maritime support to the Royal Navy.

'Duncan also has considerable experience and a strong track record in delivering service contracts to both central and local government.

'Looking ahead, the group faces many challenges. We will continue to deliver ferry services to the Clyde and Hebrides through our subsidiary company, CalMac

## Jahama Highland Estates departing chief executive Duncan Mackison.

Ferries Limited. In addition, we will also be addressing the forthcoming tender process for the new contract to deliver ferry services to the Orkney and Shetland Islands, a process which has already begun.

'This year will also be an important year in the development of the port facilities at Marchwood, a contract which is operated for the Ministry of Defence through our joint venture company, Solent Gateway Limited.

'We look forward to welcoming Duncan, who will join us on March 1, 2019.'

There was no comment available from Jahama Highland Estates or its parent company, GFG Alliance, before we went to press.

## Travelodge launches recruitment campaign

Travelodge, which operates five hotels across the Highlands, including one in Fort William, has launched a new recruitment programme for the Highlands targeting mums and dads looking to get back into work by offering jobs with hours that fit around the school run, a work buddy and access to management training.

The programme aims to help attract some of Scotland's thousands of unemployed parents into hospitality, as part of Travelodge's plans to open 20 new hotels over the next five years, which will create approximately 400 new positions.

Jobs will be available across the company's Scottish hotels, including roles in

reception, restaurants and housekeeping. Across its five hotels in the Highlands, the company is actively looking to fill five jobs immediately.

To apply visit: <https://www.travelodge.co.uk/careers/>

To design this new initiative, Travelodge commissioned a survey with YouGov to gain insight into the challenges unemployed mums and dads are facing.

Key findings revealed 86 per cent of unemployed parents would like to return to work. However, 59 per cent of parents reported that the scarcity of jobs with flexibility around the school run was the biggest challenge to finding work.

More than a quarter said they want to work because they miss adult conversation.

## New fund to boost tourism

A new multi-million-pound fund to promote the outstanding scenery, wildlife and culture of the Highlands and Islands opened for applications on Monday January 14. Applicants for the £5 million Natural and Cultural

Heritage Fund, can come from the public, voluntary or third sectors. However, the fund is not suitable for applications from the private sector, individuals, commercial enterprise or organisations run entirely by volunteers.



David Ogg at the pop-up shop in Ballachulish. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## Pop-up shop helps to raise cash for Lochaber arts groups

Star Wars trooper helmets, Oor Wullie annuals, stamp collections, fancy frocks, sparkly children's shoes, coffee sets and books of all kinds are just some of the items for sale at a pop-up shop in Ballachulish, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

The store, which was the former village Co-op next to Quarriers cafe, has been set up to help fund local arts

groups. It has already attracted lots of attention in raising money for Kinlochleven-based Dramafish and to help set up a new group, Theatre Lochaber, which aims to bring various arts groups across Lochaber together in a spirit of discussion and cooperation.

David Ogg was the man front-of-stage in Ballachulish, surrounded by the interesting

and diverse array of items for sale. He said: 'People have been very generous in donating really good things to help us fundraise, and the shop has been quite busy since we opened last week.'

'We plan to stay open as long as we can and would like to thank the owners of the building for their help and generosity is allowing us the space.'

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## Familiar faces at Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club

Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club hosted guest artist Ian Cruickshanks Trio, from Kirriemuir, and a host of familiar faces for an entertaining evening at the Railway Club on Tuesday January 8.

It was a brilliant start to the new year with non-stop music from the band and a few local musicians, some taking a break from their busy touring schedules to play.

There were plenty of feet tapping and hands clapping all night.

The six Lochaber locals – Ewen Henderson, Hugh MacCallum, Andrew MacDonald, Calum MacColl,



Returning local musicians Ewen Henderson, Hugh MacCallum, Andrew MacDonald, Calum MacColl, Robert Nairn and 'Hecky' Henderson were a hit with the audience.

Robert Nairn and 'Hecky' Henderson – took to the stage to play various instruments together and after half an hour of entertainment there

was rapturous applause. The boys do not get together often as they are all in other bands or work away.

Two of the club's young



The Ian Cruickshanks trio, with Malcom Ross and Iain MacCallum, were joined by 'Hecky' Henderson and Calum MacColl for a stramash at the end of the evening.

accordion players, Cameron MacIsaac and Craig Kennedy, added to the programme.

Chairman Alisdair MacDonald thanked the art-

ists and everyone who attended, especially the returning local musicians.

The next club meeting is on Thursday February 7.

## Push to revamp Mallaig playparks

Mallaig residents have started fundraising to spruce up the area's play parks.

A small group was formed at the Mallaig Community Council meeting in December with the aim of enhancing and repairing the children's play parks. It was agreed £1,750 held in the community council's account should be allocated to this project if the group is successful in raising other funds.

At the same December meeting, community councillors heard planning permission had been granted for new village toilets.

A meeting has been held with Marine Harvest's head of construction who has offered to help with the project.

The community council also heard Highlands and Islands Enterprise will support the project.

## Fort William bike track study

Lochaber Wheeled Sports Society is to commission a feasibility study to gauge support for a new pump track, trials bike park and skatepark in Fort William.

Two site options have been identified: the old tennis courts behind Lochaber

Leisure Centre and a parcel of land owned by Liberty and leased by Stramash just off the A82 close to Inverloch Castle. Subject to funding, it is proposed phase one would see a pump track built, with subsequent phases comprising a skatepark and trials bike

park. The project was awarded £10,000 from the West Coast Communities Growth Trust after winning the Lochaber Chamber of Commerce investment competition Dragons' Glen in November last year. Led by local dentist and mountain bike enthusiast

Gregor Muir, the team made an impassioned pitch on the importance of biking in the town and its role in getting more youngsters involved in outdoor sports.

The team now needs to carry out a consultation exercise, which will inform

the feasibility study which, in turn, will be used to support funding applications.

An online survey is available for the public to complete at [surveymonkey.com](http://surveymonkey.com) and can be found via the Fort Pump track and BMX park Facebook page.



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H2SJP30166 10/18

## Boundary Commission begins review of island council area

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland has begun reviews of electoral arrangements for the six council areas specified in the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018.

These are Argyll and Bute Council, Highland Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles), North Ayrshire Council, Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Islands Council.

The reviews will result in recommendations for the number of councillors on each authority and the number and boundaries of wards for the election of those councillors. They will not look at the external boundaries of council areas.

The new islands legislation allows for use of one or two member wards, in addition to the current multi-member wards, where a ward includes an inhabited island.

The commission will conduct the reviews in two phases, focusing first on Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Orkney and Shetland islands council areas.

Consultation with the councils and the public is

planned for spring and summer 2019. The commission will then review Argyll and Bute, Highland and North Ayrshire council areas.

Ronnie Hinds, chairman of the commission, said: 'We welcome the new islands legislation and the flexibility it offers us to use one or two member wards where there are inhabited islands.'

'The islands make a unique contribution to Scotland but island communities face distinctive challenges and the new flexibility will help us recognise that while respecting the other requirements of an electoral review.'

'We look forward to engaging with the six councils and their communities and have already taken the opportunity during 2018 to begin discussions na h-Eileanan an Iar. Consultation is key to our work and we hope to encourage full participation in the reviews over the next two years.'

The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 requires the commission to review the six councils as soon as practicable and the commission will make its recommendations to Scottish

ministers before May 2021, in order that the resulting wards will be available for the local government elections in May 2022.

When reviewing electoral arrangements the commission is required to take account of the following factors:

- the interests of effective and convenient local government;

- within each council, each councillor should represent the same number of electors as nearly as possible;

- local ties which would be broken by making a particular boundary;

- the desirability of fixing boundaries that are easily identifiable;

- special geographical considerations.

Where a ward contains an inhabited island, the commission can recommend that it elects between one and four councillors. In all other circumstances, a ward must return either three or four councillors.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
email us at [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

## WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

An open afternoon on Gaelic medium education in Lochaber will be held on Saturday January 19 in Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar from 1pm to 3pm.

Lochaber Music for All presents The Ragtime Dolls on Sunday January 20 at Kilmallie Hall at 3pm. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available at the interval. Tickets at the door.

Allan MacLeod of Corrou Estate will give a talk on the history and wildlife of the area at a meeting of Lochaber Natural History Society on Monday January 21. The presentation will be at An Drochaid, Claggan, at 7.30pm.

Entries for the 45th annual Lochaber Music Festival close on Friday January 25. For more information visit [lochabermusicfestival.co.uk](http://lochabermusicfestival.co.uk) or go to the Lochaber Music Festival Facebook page.

The second monthly meeting of Fort William Photographic Society has been postponed until Tuesday January 29 when Stuart Moralee will give a slide show of his 2017 trip to the Valleys of Naar and Phu in Nepal. The event will be held in the Salvation Army Hall at 7pm.

The Fort William and district branch of Royal British Legion Scotland is holding a potted sports evening at Sunny's Bar on Thursday January 31 at 7pm.

# MSP welcomes CNN's U-turn on visiting Skye

by Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

What does Skye have in common with Christchurch in New Zealand, Egypt, Fukuoka in Japan, Ghana, the Grand Canyon in the USA, Hawaii, Kerala in India and New York?

The answer is it and other Hebridean islands are included on American broadcaster CNN's list of 19 must-see destinations in the world in 2019.

The U-turn comes after last year's controversy when CNN included Skye as a place to avoid because of what it claimed were pressures from too many tourists.

Last year, Skye was lumped in which such crowded tourism hot spots as Barcelona, Venice, the Taj Mahal in India, Antarctica and Mount Everest.

Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye, has welcomed CNN's change of heart.

Last year CNN's claim that Skye was experiencing a 'tourism backlash' and was one of a dozen worldwide destinations visitors should avoid in the summer had prompted Ms Forbes to invite the broadcaster to visit the Hebridean island. 'This is a



welcome U-turn by CNN,' Ms Forbes told the Lochaber Times. 'When the American news outlet first published a story recommending tourists did not visit Skye, I was dismayed.'

'For all the challenges we face in remote and rural parts of the Highlands, the economy is fragile and small changes can have big impacts.'

'Tourism is a vital driver of growth, creating jobs and generating income.'

'Yes, there have been frustrations, but these are isolated to certain areas and it would be catastrophic if tourists were told not to come. I am pleased CNN has changed its tune.'

**MSP Kate Forbes has welcomed the American television giant's change of tune when it comes to visiting Skye.**

## Two teenagers among drivers charged in festive drink driving campaign

Thirty two people were reported for drink or drug driving over the festive period, police in the Highlands and Islands have said.

Of those detected locally during the month-long national campaign, 11 of the drivers were in their 20s or younger.

More than 3,000 vehicles were stopped as part of the crackdown with the vast majority of those checked returning negative test results.

However, 30 drivers will face further action for alleged drink driving, while two will be reported for allegedly driving under the influence of drugs.

These include 25 men and seven women.

This compares to 37 people – 29 men and eight women – over the same period in 2017/18.

All of the drivers detected will be or already have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal and seven applications

for vehicle forfeiture have been made.

Highland and Islands Road Policing Inspector Neil Lumsden said: 'The results of this year's campaign are proportionately very encouraging.'

'This year's campaign has highlighted locally a trend not previously seen, with 11 young drivers, including two teenagers and all of them men, choosing to get behind the wheel of a vehicle after consuming alcohol or drugs.'

'It will have a life-changing effect on each and every one of the drivers who have been reported as a result of activity in the last month.'

'Is it worth gaining a criminal record, a driving ban and potentially a custodial sentence for the sake of a few drinks or a quick high?'

'It is clear some drivers still feel this is a risk worth taking and we will continue to carry out enforcement activity aiming at removing these drivers from the roads.'

## Ian Burgess appointed chairman of NHS Western Isles Board

Ian Burgess has been appointed chairman of Western Isles NHS Board.

For the past four years, Mr Burgess has served on the board of NHS Western Isles as a non-executive director and as vice chairman for the past year.

He stood down from his role as member of NHS Western Isles Board on taking up the position of chairman, an appointment which will run for four years from January 2019 to December 2022.

Mr Burgess said: 'I am very pleased to be the chairman of NHS Western Isles, an organisation which is so important to all of us living in the Western Isles.'

'I am also proud of all our



Ian Burgess.

staff who deliver excellent health care to all those in our care and look forward to working alongside them.'

## Crofters assured of Less Favoured Area support

The Scottish Crofting Federation has received an assurance from the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy Fergus Ewing that he is committed to maintaining Less Favoured Area Support at 80 per cent of the 2018 funding level for the next financial years 2019 and 2020.

'Less Favoured Area payments are vital for those of us in the Highlands and Islands who face natural constraints,' said Russell Smith, chairman of the Scottish Crofting Federation, 'so the prospect of this support being cut to 80 per cent in 2019 and then to only 40 per cent in 2020 was unthinkable.'

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## Lochaber Food project puts emphasis on local

Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) has just been awarded funding from the Local Connect Regional Food Fund, which seeks to celebrate and promote locally produced food and drink throughout Scotland.

LEG's Lochaber Food initiative aims to stimulate the production and consumption of local food in the region by encouraging partnerships between residents, restaurants, retailers and local producers who are encouraged to employ sustainable traditional crofting practices and grow food using organic principles.

The aim is to build a robust, sustainable and collaborative local food market where the provenance of the produce is clear, the food miles are low and the consumer develops and appreciation of what is in season.

Adam Veitch, a local crofter and sourdough baker, said: 'It is really exciting to be involved in the initiative. Lochaber Food will allow producers to support each other and enable consumers



to access food that's been grown locally.'

Events will take place throughout the year. In the first instance, local producers and those who would like to be producers (however small) are encouraged to get in touch and let LEG know what they do and what they aspire to do if there was a better-connected market.

For more information email [stephen@lochaberenviron.org.uk](mailto:stephen@lochaberenviron.org.uk)

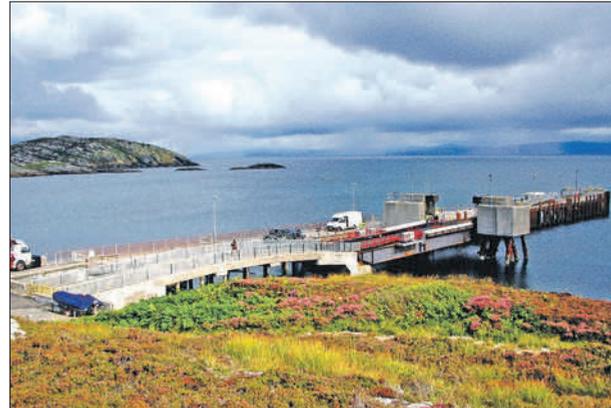
# Work to close Coll and Tarbert linkspans

The linkspans at Coll and Tarbert on Harris are to close for a few days because of findings during routine inspections.

Work to replace the wire ropes used for lifting the linkspans at Coll and Tarbert is scheduled to take place at the end of January at Coll and the end of February at Tarbert.

CMAL, which owns the harbours, has appointed a contractor to carry out the work, which will be done in stages to cause as little disruption to ferry services as possible.

The linkspan at Coll will be closed after the 12.45pm sailing on Tuesday January 22 and will re-open for the arrival of the 9.55am service on Saturday January 26, which will allow the contractor to replace the ropes on one side of the linkspan. It will then close again after the 12.45pm sailing on Monday January 28, and re-open for the arrival of the 10.15am sailing



The Coll ferry service will be disrupted on two occasions this month to allow the linkspan to be replaced.

on Thursday January 31. This will allow the replacement of the remaining ropes.

The linkspan at Tarbert, Harris, will be closed after the 4pm service on Wednesday February 27 departs and will re-open for the arrival of the 11.20am sailing on Tuesday March 5.

This will allow both sets of rope replacements to be

carried out during a single closure.

Ramsay Muirhead, head of civil engineering at Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited said: 'Following routine inspection of the linkspans at Coll and Tarbert, it was deemed the replacement of the wire lifting ropes at both harbours was required.

'We would have preferred

to carry out the work at Coll during the already scheduled linkspan closure in October. However, for safety reasons, we have decided not to delay the replacement.

'We are working with the team at CalMac and our contractor to ensure this work is carried out with as little disturbance to services as possible.'

CalMac has advised services for foot passengers will be provided during the disruption on normal service days on both routes. However, passengers are advised an amended timetable may be in operation and are asked to refer to its website, [www.calmac.co.uk](http://www.calmac.co.uk), for details.

CalMac director of service delivery David Gibson said: 'We have tried to build services around this unavoidable disruption as best we can to minimise the impact to communities while the work is completed as quickly as is possible.'



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Finding innovative ways of blowing away the January blues is a staple endeavour of this post-festive, dark, dreary and anticlimactic month but if you are even marginally a music fan, Celtic Connections is a tonic most powerful.

More than 'New Year, New You' type fads, more than resolutions to spend less time on Facebook, eat no chocolate and go to the gym three times a day, Celtic Connections can lift you from the heebie-jeebies of January with the power of music as it bursts into life with the positive energy of a flock of spring lambs arriving three months early.

From today (Thursday) until February 3, this Glasgow-based roots music extravaganza will welcome acts from around the globe to perform at more than 300 events across the city and hit audience numbers in the region of last year's 130,000.

Having existed now for a quarter of a century, Celtic Connections is well-established as the biggest event of

its kind in the world. Since its inception in 1994, when it held 66 events and welcomed a modest 27,000 attendees, it has grown, developed and matured into an entity that shapes the calendar and careers of musicians and gives an annual gift to music fans.

Taynuilt man Donald Shaw of Capercaillie is still very much at the helm, although with a slight change in title from artistic director to creative producer.

He has stepped back from the front-line of programming to allow for more of his time to be spent on the overall and long-term direction of the festival.

Donald's role at the head of the team in recent years has added greatly to the musical credibility of the event and he has and will continue to use his track record as a musician and his intimate knowledge of the art and the industry to maintain musical innovation and integrity.

The live music scene in Scotland is healthier than it has ever been and that seems to be particularly so in the west coast areas. Through December and early January,

the number of gigs that were happening was unbelievable.

Throughout Argyll and Lochaber it was like wacky races with Mánran, Skerryvore, Tide Lines, the Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Heron Valley, Skipinnish and other bands all hitting the roads and halls, crisscrossing each other to one full house after another.

There are many intangible as well as many clearly identifiable factors involved in the current upsurge of live music and the profile of Celtic Connection and its knock-on reverberations around the country is certainly a big contributor.

Next week I may cover some of the events I am able to attend but, in the meantime, I would urge any readers who fancy a musical feast to go online and have a look through the impressive programme of events taking place in Glasgow over the following 18 days.

However, be warned that if you go to Glasgow this weekend for a concert, you may wake up on the morning of February 4 wondering what on earth happened.

# Crowdfunding launched to restore Rum's Kinloch Castle

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

A campaign to restore a famous 19th-century hunting lodge in the Small Isles to its former glory got under way this week.

Nestling in the bay of Loch Scresort on the Isle of Rum, Kinloch Castle is surrounded by a shelter belt of trees, planted at the same time as the castle was built. It is an impressive and intriguing sight as you approach the island.

But it is in a sad state of disrepair and with no one living in the castle problems that had been building over the years continued to affect the structure and magnificent contents.

However, that all could change after the Kinloch Castle Friends Association (KCFA), formed in 1996,



**Kinloch Castle is home to artefacts from all over the world and red deer trophies are still in place on the walls.** Photograph: Kinloch Castle Friends Association.

been employed to look at all the aspects of building and restoration work that will be required.

All the work involved in applying for asset transfer, requires funding. In addition to surveyors, roofers and a range of other trades, KCFA also requires funding for legal and accountancy costs.

A spokesman said: 'We need to raise money to help pay for ongoing costs as we work nearer to asset transfer and are initially aiming for £10,000. We have some excellent rewards to tempt people. Our updated business plan is nearly ready to go

in to SNH once more. SNH meanwhile have repaired the problem which was causing massive water ingress into the basement.'

To date, KCFA has applied to a range of funding organisations and is looking to attract more members.

The reopening of the hostel, bar and bistro is only phase one of KCFA's business plan, over time it is planned to open hotel style rooms and restore the fabric and fittings of the castle.

Built by an immensely wealthy Lancashire industrialist George Bullough just as the 19th century came to close, Kinloch Castle was used primarily as a shooting lodge, where prestigious guests would be hosted in luxury. No expense was spared in the castle and it soon became home to artefacts from all over the world

most of which can still be seen today.

The castle once boasted plenty of cutting-edge technology, such as hydro-powered electric lighting, telephones and luxurious baths with lots of jets that sprayed from many angles.

Since the death of Sir George in 1939 the castle began to fall into slow decline and in 1957 the Isle of Rum was bought by the government as a national nature reserve latterly under the management of Scottish Natural Heritage.

Eventually, in 2013, the hostel facility in the castle was closed, although tours of the public rooms and some of the bedrooms continue to be given over the summer months, right up to the present day.

To find out more about the castle and the campaign, visit the website [www.kinlochcastlefriends.org](http://www.kinlochcastlefriends.org)

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# Few islanders untouched by Iolaire event

View from the Edge

**CATH MACDONALD**  
fort@obantimes.co.uk



This was a Christmas and New Year season which will stand out and be long remembered in Lewis and Harris and beyond.

As well as the usual festive events, what took precedence over everything was the preparation for the centenary of and in remembrance of the Iolaire tragedy.

As these were well publicised in this and other newspapers and other media, there is no need for them to be listed here.

A lot of hard work went into these events and those involved in their presentation deserve our utmost praise and thanks.

Special mention should be made of two very good books.

The Darkest Dawn, written by Malcolm MacDonald and Donald John MacLeod, was published recently by Acair Books.

A very good account of its

contents was given in the first January edition of the Lochaber Times.

There is also When I Heard The Bell by John MacLeod, published in 2010 and re-printed in 2016.

These books are full of information, with photos and some background of those who were lost and those who survived.

One survivor from Harris was Alex Campbell, of Plocropool, a first cousin of my father.

On his way home, a short distance down the road from our croft, he called on my grandparents.

My grandmother was his aunt.

My father was a child of eight years or so and he remembered Alex calling and that he was soaking wet.

He had walked all the way from Stornoway.

This was the first the family had heard of the tragedy, communications in those days being very far from what they are now.

After so many decades of sparse information about

the loss of the Iolaire, we are thankful for what we have learned about how the accident happened, about those who were lost and those who survived, and something also of how their families coped with this most tragic accident and loss.

To lose so many from small communities at a time when people expected to be greeting them and rejoicing on their arrival, and for it to happen when they were so close to home, is hard to imagine.

Now we have learned so much about the navigational error which turned out to be catastrophic, and that tribute has been paid to those who were on the Iolaire, returning from a war and then no longer with us, a duty has been done.

We have reason to give thanks to everyone involved in the commemoration events, exhibitions, presentations, authors and publishers, groups and individuals who worked on this very special task of remembrance.

A Happy New Year to all Lochaber Times readers.



## Island youth donate £3,000 to Western Isles Women's Aid

The Nicolson Institute's Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) winning team for 2018/19 presented a cheque for £3,000 to Western Isles Women's Aid last week.

This is a welcome boost for the charity and great

recognition of the team's hard work and commitment. YPI is a citizenship programme that raises awareness among young people about philanthropy and their local community.

Left to right: Mrs M Mackenzie, RME

Department; Lorna Nicol, Western Isles Women's Aid; Mary Watt, manager of Western Isles Women's Aid; Abby-Jo Morrison; Mary Jane Morrison; Scott MacLennan; Lee MacLean; John MacRae and Dr F Murray, Rector.

## Holyrood backs calls for Iolaire site to

News that the Scottish Government is supporting calls to have the site of the Iolaire wreck to be designated by the Ministry of Defence as a military maritime grave have been welcomed by Alasdair Allan, SNP MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar.

The Isles MSP posed the question to Nicola Sturgeon in the first First Minister's

Questions since the Parliament returned from the winter recess.

The First Minister also confirmed members of the Scottish Commemorations Panel have raised the issue with the Ministry of Defence, which has powers over the decision.

Alasdair Allan said: 'I'm pleased the First Minister has

confirmed the calls to designate the site of Iolaire as a military maritime grave have the Scottish Government's full backing.

'The Iolaire tragedy is one of the saddest tales ever told in the islands. So many were never recovered from the wreck - around one third of those who lost their lives.

'A fitting way to recognise

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# MSP hits out at surcharges to isles

Island MSP Alasdair Allan, right, has hit out at the 'arbitrary and unjustifiable' delivery surcharges islanders have to face after research has shown consumers in the Western Isles continue to pay over the odds for items sent, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.



The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has estimated consumers in the Western Isles faced £2.66 million in delivery surcharges during 2018.

This is almost a five per cent increase from 2017 where SPICe estimated the cost of delivery surcharges as £2.54 million.

The power to regulate parcel delivery surcharging is reserved to the UK

Government. However, the Scottish Government has launched an action plan on tackling unfair delivery charges which includes developing a fair delivery charges

map where consumers will be able to compare and track delivery costs and providing a crowdsourcing website where customer experiences of unfair deliveries can be shared.

Alasdair Allan said: 'Islanders rely on being able to purchase items online that we cannot easily pick up locally.

'However, the Western Isles continues to be one of the worst places affected by retailers setting arbitrary and unjustifiable delivery surcharges. Island consumers are now paying more than £2.66 million in delivery charges.

'More has to be done to stop islanders being ripped off. While the Scottish

Government's recent action plan was a welcome step forward in the campaign against unfair delivery charges, ultimately the powers in this area are reserved to the UK Government and they must step up.

'Along with cross-party Highlands and Islands MPs, my colleague Angus MacNeil MP is preparing a list of companies who charge excessive fees to deliver to the islands with the aim of submitting this to the UK Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

'I would encourage constituents to share their experiences with him by emailing angus.macneil.mp@parliament.uk.'

## Portree paramedic and 24-hour care plan

The provision of 24-hour urgent care at Portree Hospital is on schedule to be fully operational by May of this year, the Lewis Ritchie Implementation Steering Group heard at its meeting in Portree on January 8.

The meeting also heard the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) will recruit a team of paramedics to be stationed at Portree Hospital over the next year.

NHS Highland and NHS 24 are working together to pilot advance nurse practitioners who will undertake a dual role for both organisations in Portree and Broadford. This work has not been done before and the purpose is to underpin a resilient out-of-hours service.

Senior managers from NHS 24 will visit Skye and Glenelg in late February with NHS Highland to meet with

community representatives to support the development of these proposals.

David Park, chief officer of NHS Highland's North Highland Health and Social Care partnership, said an options appraisal would be undertaken to find a permanent solution for out-of-hours urgent care on Raasay.

Graham MacLeod, head of ambulance services Highland, told the meeting an action plan for recruiting and training first responders on Skye is under way.

He explained that SAS is developing a case that, if successful, would see the recruitment of six additional staff in Portree to have the ambulance based there operating 24/7 and see the elimination of on call in Portree in 2019/20. Mr MacLeod said it is hoped recruitment can begin at the end of March.

## be designated war grave

their sacrifice would be to designate the Iolaire as a military maritime grave – protecting the site in their memory, in perpetuity.

'It was very welcome to have the First Minister, alongside Prince Charles, present at the commemorative ceremony on New Year's Day in Stornoway. The commemorations for the Iolaire have

been incredibly moving and it is clear the tragedy of New Year's Day 1919 will never be forgotten.

'The First Minister's backing for the Iolaire site becoming a military grave is a very positive step and I hope the MOD will make the decision, which would be welcomed across the Western Isles and Scotland.'

## Vessel towed back to port in Portree's first call of 2019

Portree Lifeboat was called into action for the first time in 2019 and it was the first shout for the newly-appointed duty mechanic.

At 12.50pm on Saturday January 5, the Portree RNLI Lifeboat was launched to help a local fishing boat with engine issues on Loch Snizort. The three fishermen on board were safe and well but the



**The three fishermen on board were safe and well but the fishing vessel needed a tow back into Uig, Isle of Skye.**

vessel needed a tow back into Uig, Skye.

The lifeboat arrived on site

at 2.20pm and established an alongside tow, arriving at Uig at 2.45pm, departing

at 2.55pm for Portree after making the vessel secure.

On board was duty mechanic Stuart 'Stupod' Nicolson on his first shout as the mechanic.

Stuart started with the crew at the age of 17, joining his father John Nicolson, the full-time mechanic.

John was on annual leave the day of 2019's first shout.

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## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBNew investment  
in Lochaber hotels  
is very welcome

There has been a boom time for the tourism sector across Lochaber in recent years, partly as a result of the uncertainty caused by Brexit, but also in large measure as a result of hard work by many people involved in the industry.

However, there is no room for complacency, so it is worrying to hear that Indian millionaire Sanjay Narang was disappointed by his experience of the hotels he stayed in during a visit to Scotland.

Now he has bought three hotels – stressing that none of them was the subject of his complaints – in the Highlands, including two in Lochaber.

Mr Narang has promised to spend around £7 million upgrading the Cluanie Inn at Glenmoriston, the Whispering Pine Lodge (formerly Letterfinlay Lodge) at Spean Bridge and Rokeby Manor (formerly Craigard House) at Invergarry.

If Mr Narang, now a major force in the food and hospitality industry in India, can deliver on his pledge to improve the hotels, it will be a welcome investment.

We wish him well in his efforts to contribute to the Lochaber economy.

Good to see young  
people engaging

There are, inevitably, some people who are critical of Lochaber High School teenager Holly Gillibrand, 13, who staged a walkout last Friday in protest at the lack of action to tackle climate breakdown. Now she has said she intends continuing her weekly strikes, with the support of her family and many others.

Climate change is a genuine issue, perhaps especially for remote, rural, scenic and coastal areas such as Lochaber, so it is good to see our concerned young people taking such an interest.

We are lucky to have such  
good politicians

This feels like an appropriate time of year to publicly thank our MSP Kate Forbes and MP Ian Blackford for their work on our behalf. Whether or not you agree with all or some or none of their party politics, we should think ourselves extremely fortunate in having two of the most active and hard-working individuals representing us. Similarly Andrew Baxter should be commended for his commitment and willingness to repeatedly speak up and speak out on our behalf locally. (I am sure there are other councillors working just as hard elsewhere in Highland, but in South Lochaber it appears to me that Andrew is largely working alone.)

My New Year resolution is to give them all more of my support. That doesn't just mean thanking them when they do something I agree with, it means letting them know what I think about the issues they are dealing with, whether for or against; asking questions, making the effort to find out more, and writing in support of their efforts when appropriate. They were elected by us and are paid by us through our taxes, and as with any 'employee', it is not acceptable to put them in post and leave them to get on with it for five years – they need and deserve our input, feedback, guidance and support, just as we rightly demand the same from them.

Their work impacts our lives in every way, all of the time, whether we like it or not, and whether we are interested in politics or not. I for one intend to show my support for what they do by engaging with the process a little more.

I have no doubt that they each have the best interests of our area in mind, and I would like to thank them all for their efforts on our behalf.

Joanne Matheson, Acharracle.

Seil needs safer routes for  
pedestrians

I read with sadness of the plight many parents and families trying to regularly navigate the single-lane 'motorway' by Balvicar on Seil.

The local community council has my sympathy and support. As they fight to avoid an incident it's worth noting that in the wider world the move is now towards a 20 mph limit in areas frequented by pedestrians. The roads here provide passage for vehicular and pedestrian traffic but it seems that an accident has been avoided so far because pedestrians have simply been scared off. And understandably so, for what responsible parent

## YOUR PICTURES



**We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here, send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street, Fort William.**

would send their kids on to a motorway every day. If it was a central belt city this happened in the family would no doubt be investigated by social services.

And so the argument becomes about the one trip the locals have no choice but to force their children to make from bus stops to home or school.

But that neatly skips over the main issue of providing safe island routes for pedestrians now cars are so fast and furious none can use the road.

There are a number of old church paths on Seil which have been gradually falling into disrepair. Reinstatement and extension of these would free locals from the tyranny of the road while providing a further draw for tourists.

It would require support and coordination from the local council, local landowners and the community council.

It could draw on funding from a variety of sources such as the lottery. It should be accompanied by a pro-pedestrian attitude by the council which ensures pedestrians or cycle based



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# DISTRICT NEWS



Rainbow Raisers generate funds to help young people suffering from cystic fibrosis.

## Roll up for a Rainbow Raiser for The Leanne Fund

Brighten up everyone's day with a Rainbow Raiser at your school, college or workplace this February in aid of The Leanne Fund.

The Leanne Fund offers a range of services to individuals affected by cystic fibrosis (CF) and their families across the Highlands and Islands. The Leanne Fund was set up in 2009 in memory of Leanne Mitchell from the Isle of Lewis.

This special fundraiser on Friday February 22 will help make a real difference to the lives of those with CF and ensure a fun charitable activity for your class, group or workplace.

Last year's inaugural event was a great success with more than £1,000 raised for the charity.

All you have to do is request a Rainbow Raiser pack and get set

to wear your best/wackiest and brightest clothes for the day.

Chrisetta Mitchell, development manager for The Leanne Fund, said: 'Each week five babies are born with cystic fibrosis and sadly two young lives are lost. There is currently no cure.

'At The Leanne Fund, we provide a range of support services to individuals affected by cystic fibrosis and their families, helping them to maintain and improve their quality of life and live life to the full. This help is available across Highlands, Islands and Grampian.

'We are inviting schools, colleges, workplaces and businesses to partner with us in hosting a Rainbow Raiser, from which the funds raised will contribute towards making a difference in the lives of

those affected by this life-limiting disease.

'We are delighted that many local schools and workplaces have already signed up to take part and I would encourage everyone to get involved and encourage your local school or nursery, workplace to do so.'

In your Rainbow Raiser pack you will receive the following to help you set up your day: colourful bunting template to help you make your space bright and beautiful; stickers to give to those participating; a poster to let people know what you are organising; top 10 tips for making your day as successful and fun as possible.

To find out more, email The Leanne Fund at [info@thelleanne-fund.co.uk](mailto:info@thelleanne-fund.co.uk)

## SOUTH UIST



A tourist information centre in Lochboisdale will reopen as Uist Gifts and Info this year.

The gift shop will open in April 2019 following the closure of the VisitScotland service in 2017.

Stòras Uibhist secured the necessary £25,175 funding from the Scottish Land Fund to purchase the building on behalf of the community.

To date, Uist Gifts and Info has been operating an online shop and this opportunity will enable them to expand their range of gifts and ser-

vices, and establish a much-needed facility in Lochboisdale village.

Donnie Steele of Uist Gifts and Info said: '[We] aim to bring a new look to the former tourist office at Lochboisdale. We will sell souvenirs, gifts and clothing from the Isles, provide tourist info services along similar lines to our online sites, [SouthUist.com](http://SouthUist.com), [Isleofsouthuist](http://Isleofsouthuist) and online shop [uistgifts](http://uistgifts).

'We will work with local artisans and businesses to provide services and local gifts online and in the shop.'

## FORT WILLIAM



The lucky winner of a brand new 49in LG Smart Ultra HD TV worth £499 in Gleaner Oils' Big Win competition was Hamish Harrower from Fort William. His daughter Kirsty accepted delivery of the TV on Hamish's behalf on December 21. Sales manager Graham McLaggan (pictured with Kirsty) personally delivered the TV, along with Madeline Rae, sales representative.

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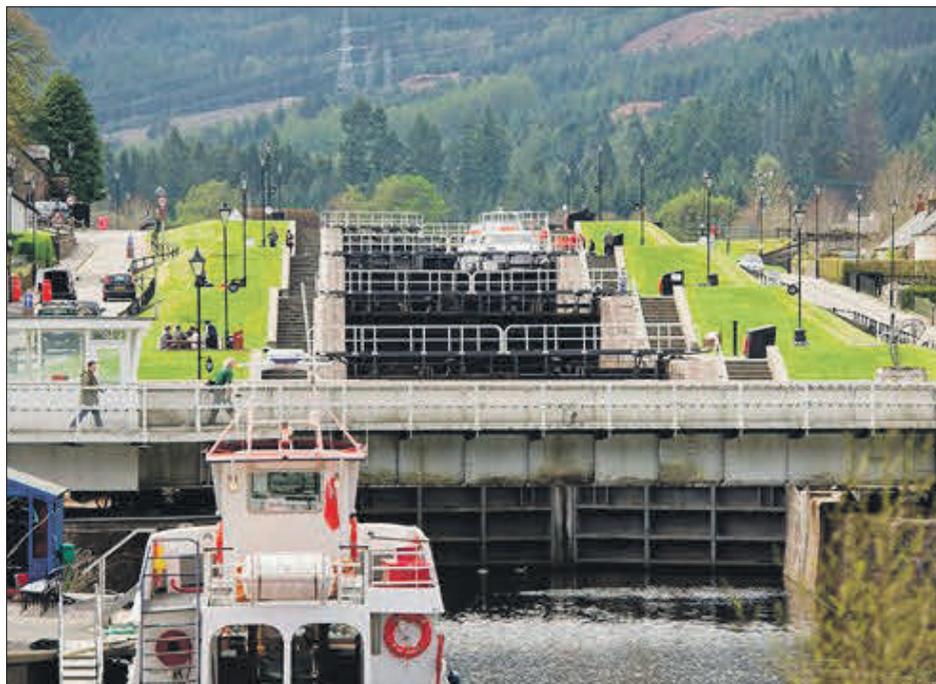
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## Disruption expected as lock gates are replaced

Critical repairs started this week on the Caledonian and Union Canals thanks to Scottish Government funding, including an additional allocation of £5.35 million made available to Scottish Canals in November 2018.

Scheduled to last about three months, the lock gates at Kytra and Fort Augustus on the Caledonian Canal are to be replaced.

Transport Scotland is making the investment to allow Scottish Canals to maintain these historic assets as well as assist projects which improve the experience for users and support income generation for reinvestment in the canals.

Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity Michael Matheson said: 'The additional funding is enabling Scottish Canals to undertake critical repairs which will allow boaters to continue to navigate the waterways for years to come. While there may be some short-term disruption, the works are essential to the future of the Caledonian and Union canals.'

'These repairs will be in addition to the scheduled maintenance that Scottish Canals will carry out in 2019 as part of its asset management programme - including critical embankment works at Linlithgow.'

'Our canal network plays a vital role in tourism and economic regeneration. To secure the future of the network, we intend to increase Scottish Canals funding to record levels in the Scottish Budget for 2019/20 in recognition of the challenges faced in maintaining our historic waterways.'

Catherine Topley, chief executive of Scottish Canals, said: 'This additional funding is fantastic news and will help us to safeguard the incredible heritage assets of Scotland's canals for future generations to enjoy.'

'These 200-year-old waterways play a vital role in local communities and Scotland as a whole, contributing to the marine economy; attracting tourists, visitor spend and investment; as well as stimulating job creation and business growth.'

'While managing these historic assets is not without its challenges, we are committed to continuing to work with the Scottish Government and our partners to ensure they continue to deliver benefits for all the people of Scotland.'

Scottish Canals have been updating and informing canal users on anticipated disruption as a result of these vital works.

For further information visit the Scottish Canals website at [www.scottishcanals.co.uk](http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk)

## Retro Roamer

[fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

### More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

There wasn't the slightest chance of knowing the score in the New Year shinty match between Lodge Fort William 43 and Lodge Lochiel 1200. Why? Because, of course, the result was a secret. But the annual challenge, which featured several former Fort William and Kilmallie players making 'comebacks' and attracted scores of spectators, was a fine sporting start to 1993.

Meanwhile, up Upper Banavie Road, at Torcastle, Ian Sykes was being press ganged and then conveyed, under ski patrol, Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team and Hydro Electric escort, to the Canal Bank from where he was made to walk the plank ONTO 'The Souter's Lass'. In total darkness. While Ian was finding his sea legs, the pipes struck up and fireworks were set off. Then the lights went on and 50 folk started to sing 'Happy Birthday'. It took Spike a wee while to recover his equilibrium and, when he did, he certainly needed plenty of puff to blow out the candles on the cake.

Two volunteer posts were advertised rather quaintly on church notice boards last Sunday: 'Two vacant members are required to serve on the Parish Council.'

Prior to taking up his promotion post as Chief Inspector in Inverness, Robbie Smart had his 'farewell do' in Fort William. Robbie reminisced about his introduction to Fort William and its High Street: 'I went into a pub,' he said 'and saw this notice on the wall behind the bar which read 'A Pie, A Pint and a Kind Word'. So I asked the barman for a pint. He served it without comment. Then I said I'd have a pie. It was handed over in silence and, so far, he had said absolutely nothing.' But Robbie persevered. 'I just had to jar him,' he said. 'What about the kind word, then?' This elicited an immediate response. 'Don't eat the pie, it's last week's.'

Claggan Park groundsman John Sandison is getting ready for the arrival of Celtic for Sunday's friendly against Fort William. John has asked for new, environmentally friendly green overalls to replace the light blue issue he normally wears. And John is hopeful of getting a new cap to swap for the blue and white one that goes with the job and which has the initials DSO emblazoned on it. If he doesn't get kitted out in time for the wearing of the green, then he'll deserve the DSO if he puts in an appearance sporting his usual light blue gear. Meanwhile, if all else fails, Florence has

bought a tin of white emulsion so John can go out into the park prior to kick-off and paint the tips of the grass blades white!

The atmosphere has been electric around these parts recently. In Appin, for example, sparks flew during the filming of a TV commercial. The activities of technicians from Glasgow-based television production company were such that they soon had a highly charged impact on the local populace. They needed power, you see, to heighten the lighting effects on, among other local focal points, Castle Stalker. So they linked up their generator to the Appin supply. Then, flash, bang, wallop they blew the lot, rendering out of action the village cookers and kettles, fridges and freezers, TVs and table lamps. Locals say the film company personnel were totally embarrassed which was hardly surprising as they were attempting to produce a Hydro Electric TV advert.

There was a lot of power - water power - surging past the courthouse last Friday for the West End to have harnessed it all to generate their own hydro electricity. What a pity the legal eagles, constabulary members and the public couldn't have been captured on video as they tried to ford the rushing waters of Allt a' Phriosain to get into and out of the courthouse.

Who, apart from skiers, could fail to warm to Malcolm Brown's off-piste comment at 9am on Nevis Radio/SkiFM at the weekend? 'I'll be back at 10am to remind you there's no skiing on Aonach Mor,' he said.

Peter was at the jiggging. At Lochaber Rugby Club's dinner dance, to be precise, getting his teeth into a Strip the Willow. The whole length of the Milton floor was taken up with sets of kilted rugby players and their long skirted partners giving it beans. All of a sudden, Peter put his hand to his mouth then sashayed through the ranks of dancers, glissading to a stop among the farthest away group and starting to scratch about on the floor. Peter then emerged triumphantly with his top set which, remarkably, had survived all the scrums and tackles of the Strip the Willow sets.

In the teeth of a howling gale, I was heading into town on foot from Claggan. I chanced upon a rain coated, muffled and bunned gentleman, clinging to the railings at St Mary's. It was the redoubtable Stron(i)ach, understandably, because of his artificial limbs, making heavy weather of his attempts to cross the road to the station. Which should explain to all you tooting, light flashing, hand waving local motorists why Stron(i)ach and I were to be seen, arm in arm, battling the elements along Belford Road and then across to the sanctuary of the station.



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## GOLF



Glencruitten golfer Robert MacIntyre.

## MacIntyre tees off in Abu Dhabi

Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre has secured a place in the \$7,000,000 Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship which started yesterday (Wednesday).

Robert said: 'My first European Tour adventure is certainly living up to expectations.

'After getting an exciting taste of what it's like to play on the top circuit by teeing up in four events before the festive break, I'm off on my travels again – and can't wait to get going once more.

'Along with my Bounce Sport stablemates and fellow Challenge Tour graduates Grant Forrest and Liam Johnston, I'm delighted to be taking part in the Rolex Series Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship.

'For the first time, it's a Rolex Series event and the field at Abu Dhabi Golf Club is being headed by the likes of Brooks Koepka, Dustin Johnson, Tommy Fleetwood and Henrik Stenson.

'Playing in those four events at the end of last year has given me a bit of a headstart, especially after making the cut in the Honma Hong Kong Open then finishing joint 15th in both the South African Open and the Alfred Dunhill Championship.

'Hopefully, I can perform well in Abu Dhabi, too, as that would really set me up for the rest of the season. Everyone is going to be a bit rusty so, if there's ever a week to play well, it would be probably be this week.

'I've always believed in myself, as have the team around me. It's just about seeing the results and the belief that I've got from three of my first four events is huge. In each of them, I could quite easily have been top five with the position I was in going into the last round.

'I always said that I wouldn't realise what I achieved by earning a European Tour card until I got paired with a big name and to have Ernie Els as a playing partner in three rounds and also play with Charl Schwartzel in one of those in South Africa was really special.

'It was good, of course, to spend some time at home over Christmas and New Year and I just chilled out with the majority of the family. Hogmanay was a tame one, just spending it in the house with my mum and dad – but we can still have a party if we win tournaments!

'As I head out at the start of my 2019 campaign, it's about continuing to do what I did at end of last year. It's going to be good and hopefully I can get going by posting some good scores in Abu Dhabi.'

Robert's fantastic 40-foot putt he holed in the Foshan Open is a candidate for the Challenge Tour Shot of the Year 2018.

# Saints pay the price crash out of Scot

Oban Saints	1
Rothie Rovers	1
2-2 after extra time	
Rothie won 9-8 on pens	
Scottish Cup – fifth round replay	

Oban Saints and Rothie Rovers from Aberdeenshire kept a large crowd at Glencruitten richly entertained on Saturday in a Scottish Amateur Cup fifth round replay which ultimately required a penalty shoot-out to decide the winner. After a goal a piece in the 90 minutes, followed by the same again in extra time, it was Rothie goalkeeper Lewis Milne who emerged the hero by saving two Saints penalties to give his side a 9-8 shoot-out victory and clinch a place in the last 16.

Saints made three changes to the starting 11 from the previous week's draw in Rothernman with Ruaridh Horne, Matthew Kelly and Donald Campbell coming in at the expense of Jamie Graham, David Beaton and James Ford, who all dropped to the bench where they had Dougal Graham, Fraser MacFarlane and Shaun MacIver for company.

Saints kicked off attacking the railway line end in dull and wet conditions on a Glencruitten surface which had once again been painstakingly prepared by Argyll and Bute Council groundsman Ian Hay.

Scott Maitland and Lewis Cameron had some early joy on the left for Saints with



Daniel Croarkin is congratulated on his goal.

Maitland swinging over a dangerous second minute cross which Lewis Milne in the Rothie goal did well to hold under pressure from Craig MacEwan.

Three minutes later Milne produced the first of a string of excellent saves, getting down smartly to his right to hold a Lewis Cameron shot after the Saints wide man had beaten Gavin Smart to cut in from the left.

### Set pieces

Rothie's main threat was to come from set pieces and a tug on the shirt of Jake Stewart by Craig MacEwan gave the very impressive Rothie skipper Keith Walker the chance to put the ball into the danger area looking for the head of central defender Mark Thomson. Graham Douglas beat the big man in the air to punch to the edge



Jamie Graham congratulates Dene Cassells after his late equaliser.

co-manager had escaped the close attentions of Gavin Smart and Keith Walker.

Rothie skipper Keith Walker went crashing to the ground on the edge of the Saints penalty area anticipating a challenge from opposite number Dene Cassells which never came. Referee Holms, however, was taken in and awarded the visitors a free-kick which Mark Thomson flicked on to Ryan Walker at the back post. Fortunately, Walker's header lacked the power to seriously test Graham Douglas, who made a routine catch.

Saints survived one final Rothie set piece before the interval with Dene Cassells making a decisive clearing header from a Keith Walker left wing corner which Steven MacLeod had conceded under pressure from Jake Stewart.

### Second half

The visitors started the second half in determined mood and enjoyed a good spell of pressure, keeping Saints pinned back in their own half for the opening five minutes. Saints weathered the Rothie storm and got back on the front foot with Donald Campbell and Lewis Cameron both narrowly failing to find Craig MacEwan with crosses from the left.

Craig MacEwan passed up a gilt-edged chance on the hour mark, sending a header straight down the throat of the Rothie keeper after a good give and go on the right with Ruaridh Horne.

Five minutes later, the Saints' defence was finally breached from a Rothie set piece when Mark Thomson bundled home a Keith Walker corner kick from the left.

The Rothie goalkeeper picked up a yellow card shortly after for an over-the-ball challenge on Craig MacEwan. From the resulting free-kick Lewis Milne saved with his feet to deny Donald Campbell from close range after a Craig MacEwan cutback from the left.

Saints kept pressing for the winner and introduced James Ford in the 84th minute at the expense of Daniel Croarkin to boost their attacking options.

Despite having all of the late pressure, Saints struggled to breach the well-organised Rothie defence and when they eventually did in time added on for stoppages they

of the box, from where Jack Brown volleyed well over the crossbar.

In the 13th minute, Saints carved a way through the solid Rothie defence. However, Donald Campbell's final ball was too far in front of Matthew Kelly, allowing Lewis Milne to come off his line to gather safely at Kelly's feet.

An 18th-minute Lewis Cameron corner kick from the left found its way through to Donald Campbell at the back post whose cushioned volley back across the face of goal drifted wide of Lewis Milne's right-hand post.

So often Saints' saviour with the deadball, Willie Gemmell had a chance to make his mark in the 20th minute after Craig MacEwan had been hauled back on the edge of the box. Gemmell beat the Rothie wall but only succeeded in shaving the outside of Lewis Milne's left-hand post with the keeper rooted to the spot.

The Saints pressure was building and they took a deserved lead in the 23rd minute when a Daniel Croarkin shot from 18 yards took a deflection which deceived Lewis Milne and nestled in the bottom corner of the Rothie net.

Lewis Cameron will feel he should have done better from a good opening on the half-hour mark but Lewis Milne still required two attempts to save Cameron's effort from just inside the Rothie box.

It was Milne to the rescue once again when he pulled off the save of the match to fingertip over a looping Donald Campbell effort from 18 yards after the Saints

# Penalty as they Rothie Cup



Saints goalkeeper Graham Douglas punches clear. Match report and photos: Derek Black

were again denied by the feet of Lewis Milne, who blocked two pointblank Saints' shots to send the tie into extra time.

## Extra time

In the fourth of the extra 30 minutes, Scott Maitland was tripped as he attempted to burst into the Rothie box. Mr Holms ruled the offence had taken place outside the box, awarding Saints a free-kick which could not possibly have been any closer to being on the line. Willie Gemmell's delivery was headed behind for a corner kick on the right from which Craig MacEwan rose well but sent his header narrowly wide of the junction of post and bar.

Sixty seconds later Saints were again undone from a set piece, much to the delight of the large travelling support. A long straight free-kick from Keith Walker was flicked on by Grant Ritchie to Ryan Walker, who volleyed past the helpless Graham Douglas to give Rothie the lead.

The interval arrived with Rothie still holding on to their slender advantage and Saints pushing Dene Cassells into attack and adding Shaun MacIver in place of Matthew Kelly.

The second half continued in the same vein with Saints pushing for the equaliser and Rothie defending doggedly.

There was a loud appeal for a penalty kick from Saints in the 23rd minute when a

Lewis Cameron cross from the right struck a defender's hand. However, Mr Holms remained unmoved.

With two minutes remaining, Shaun MacIver struck the outside of Lewis Milne's right-hand post after an almighty goalmouth scramble from a Willie Gemmell throw-in from the left.

With 60 seconds of extra time remaining, Donald Campbell spun away from his marker and was felled in the box for what appeared to be a stonewall penalty kick.

To the bemusement of all, Mr Holms bizarrely pointed the other way and issued a second yellow card to Campbell for simulation, ending the Saints co-manager's involvement in the game.

Despite the referee's apparent error, there can be no excuse for the foul and abusive language which followed from Shaun MacIver which earned the Saints substitute a straight red card. Neither can there be any excuse for MacIver's reaction to his dismissal which may yet have further repercussions for the hot-headed young striker.

Spurred on by a deep sense of injustice, the nine men miraculously drew level deep into time added on for stoppages. A straight ball over the top from Jamie Graham was glanced by Dene Cassells beyond the advancing keeper and into the top corner spark-

ing wild celebrations among the home support.

Dougal Graham made the briefest of substitute appearances replacing Steven MacLeod before the restart from where the ball hadn't left the centre circle before referee Holms blew for full-time.

## Penalties

In rapidly failing light, Mr Holms took the players away from the bulk of the crowd to the railway line end where 10 penalties each would be taken before a winner would emerge.

Saints were playing catch up right from the start when Aidan Elrick's successful kick was followed by a save by Lewis Milne to deny Dene Cassells.

Keith Walker and Lewis Cameron netted their efforts before Graham Douglas saved from Sean Bremner, giving Craig MacEwan the chance to level, which he gratefully accepted.

Some excellent penalty kicks followed with both goalkeepers also finding the net. Scorers for Rothie were Andi Bremner, Mark Thomson, Lewis Milne, Scott Chalmers, Grant Ritchie (despite Graham Douglas getting both hands to it), and Ashley Vasey.

Successful for Saints were Graham Douglas, Willie Gemmell, Scott Maitland, Dougal Graham, Jamie Graham and James Ford.



## ATHLETICS



Under-11 high jumper Ruby Dunlop from Ardrishaig.

08\_a35MidArgyllAthletics12

## Athletic club's indoor competitions return

Mid Argyll Athletic Club are reminding boys and girls in the local area that their annual indoor competition takes place on Saturday January 19 in the games hall and gymnasium at Lochgilphead Joint Campus. The competition starts at noon with all entries on the day from 11.30am.

Specialist equipment is used for various running, jumping and throwing events for six age groups starting at under-seven up to under-17 with age qualification as on September 1, 2018. An entry fee of £2 per competitor will be levied or £5 for families of three or more members.

Medals will be awarded to all competitors with trophies for the individual winners in each age category. Successful athletes will qualify to compete in the Argyll final to be held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on Sunday March 24.

The Mid Argyll event on January 19 is the first of four local area competitions being held in Argyll this winter promoted by the local club with support from Mull Athletic Club, Campbeltown Running Club and Atlantis Leisure.

The next competition is at Tobermory High School on Saturday February 2, followed by Oban on Sunday February 24. A date has still to be confirmed for the Kintyre competition at Campbeltown Grammar School but it is likely to be in early March.

There is an extra incentive for the under-12 boys and girls as teams will be selected after the Mid Argyll local competition to take part in the Scottish Athletics U/12 superteams national event at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow on Sunday February 10.

The competition on January 19 is an ideal opportunity for young boys and girls to come along and try athletics for the first time in a dry and warm environment.

## SCOTTISH AMATEUR LEAGUE

### Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Scottish Cup fifth round replay – Oban Saints 2, Rothie Rovers 2 (aet). Rothie won 9-8 on penalties; Jimmy Marshall Cup, first round Glenburn Athletic 4, Campbeltown Pupils 1; Tarbert 7, Cardross 1; Lochgilphead Red Star, no game.

This Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup, 4th round – Oban Saints v Thorn Athletic; Premier Division One – Hillington v Campbeltown Pupils; Port Glasgow v Lochgilphead Red Star; Premier Division Two – Villa Park v Tarbert.

## OBAN SAINTS YOUTHS

### Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Finnart 6, Under 13s 2. Scoring for Saints were Gabriel Tidser and Aidan MacDonald Cambuslang Colts 0, Under 14s 6; On target for Saints were Kyle Cooper (3), Innes Jackson and Andrew Nicol. Under 15s 0, Drumchapel 9; Ardencape 5, Under 16s 1. Saints scorer was Conor Moore.

This Sunday's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Under 14s v Erskine Yellows; Under 15s v Lochgilphead Red Star; Under 16s v Winton Rovers.



Rothie bundle the ball home to make the score 1-1.

## FOOTBALL

With Saints only having nine players on the field, it was back to the start where Aidan Elrick repeated his earlier success. Having scored from the spot in the first match, Lewis Cameron was by now taking his third penalty kick of the tie and Lewis Milne finally won the battle of wits guessing correctly and dropping to his right to beat away Cameron's effort and seal victory for Rothie.

The Rovers from Rothie-norman will now travel to Paisley in the sixth round where they will face Alba Thistle of the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division on Saturday February 2.

Saints will feel this is a tie they should have won. However, they simply didn't do enough to overcome a hard-working Rothie team who defended resolutely and took full advantage of the few chances which came their way.

The Glenruitten faithful are in for another treat this coming Saturday when former Scottish Amateur Football League rivals Thorn Athletic come calling in the West of Scotland Cup fourth round.

The Johnstone men are currently eight points clear at the top the Caledonian League Premier Division and will provide a massive test for management duo Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell and their charges.

Kick-off at Glenruitten is 1.30pm with the prospect of extra time and penalty kicks if the two sides cannot be separated after 90 minutes.

In charge of proceedings is experienced Central Scottish League referee Michael Kerr.

LT

## 10-PIN BOWLING



Lochaber 10-pin bowlers.

## 10-pin bowling results

After week nine of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, Alleycats continue to lead the scratch division with 42 points followed by Council on 36 points. British Legion Fort William move into third place with 32 points. Alleycats also continue to lead the handicap division with 35 points followed by The Empire on 29 points. Triple 'B' move into third place with 26 points.

Individually, the best scratch games this week came from Brian Stewart (The Empire) and Iain Gregor (British Legion Fort William) who both rolled 191. Also this week Brian Johnstone (Alleycats) had a 177. Elsewhere, Iain Gregor swept the board with the top handicap game of 247, the top two-game scratch series with 333 and the top two-game handicap series of 445.

The best team scores of the week came from Alleycats who had the top scratch game of 625 and the top two-game scratch series of 1157 while Council had the top handicap game of 814 and the top two-game handicap series of 1576.

The top scratch averages are currently held by Brian Johnstone on 162 followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 142 and Gus Fraser (Council) on 141.

## FOOTBALL

## Jags dumped out of cup despite an early lead

Calderglen	3
South Lochaber Thistle	1
League Challenge Cup	

South Lochaber Thistle bowed out of the Bobby Thomson Challenge Cup in the third round on Saturday after surrendering an early lead.

The Jags took the lead against the Renfrewshire club after just 15 minutes through Danny MacKintosh, who would soon be substituted after

picking up an injury. Calderglen replied in the 37th minute to level the scores.

After the half-time break the home side were able to double their lead before making it three in the 64th minute.

The Jags weren't able to respond and Calderglen held on for the win.

The Jags are back in action this Saturday away to Neilston in the fourth Round of the West of Scotland Cup.

## LOTTERY

## Lottery numbers

This week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 6, 9 and 16. There were no winners this week. The jackpot for the draw today (Thursday January 17) will be £300.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 1, 6 and 17. There were no winners this week. The prize for next week will be £200.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 3, 9 and 20. There were no winners this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £1,400.

The Caol Community Centre bingo club lotto numbers this week were 12, 17, 20. There were no winners this week and so next week's jackpot will be £200.

The numbers for Lochaber Camanachd Club's lottery draw on Tuesday January 8 were 1, 6 and 16. There was no winner so the prize for Tuesday (January 15) was £300.

# Lochaber come out on top after difficult match at Shawlands

Shawlands	10
Lochaber	16
Tennent's West Division 3	

Lochaber claimed victory in a battle of brawn on Saturday as Lochaber travelled south to take on the Glasgow side on Saturday after a dogged defensive display against a tough Shawlands side.

It was third against fourth as Lochaber travelled south to take on the Glasgow side on Saturday as both teams were looking to exert pressure on the top end of the table.

Lochaber had won the previous encounter between the two earlier in the season but were eager not to let complacency creep into their game. Saturday's encounter was set to be just as physical as the last with a big forwards pack turning out for Shawlands.

And it didn't take long for them to make an impact on the game after just a few minutes when Shawlands opened the scoring after crashing the ball up with their forwards. Lochaber responded well to this early setback with two quick penalties from the boot of Jonathan McCook to take the lead 5-6.

Despite some shortfalls in size, Lochaber's scheming pack was dominating Shawlands scrum in the first half which gave the backs clean ball to run off which was causing Shawlands all sorts of problems.

As play continued, Lochaber kept up the pressure and from a penalty they kicked for the corner. The forwards set up a maul which was stopped by the defence but, after a

couple of pick and goes, prop William Stewart spotted a gap and strode through for a try to make it 5-11.

Shawlands came back at Lochaber but the visitors' defence held strong to keep them out.

From the restart for the second half, Shawlands failed to deal with the kick and, with the ball loose on the ground, all McCook had to do was gather the ball and slide over for the try to make it 5-16. As the second half wore on, Shawlands starting making substitutions which helped their scrum out, bringing on extra weight to shore it up.

Lochaber were starting to pick up several niggling injuries and lost John Jones to a head knock which reduced them to 14 players as they

## RUGBY

travelled with a bare 15. The game went back and forth with Lochaber's scrambling defence working hard to keep Shawlands out.

Eventually their big number six took the ball from a tap penalty and worked a mismatch with one of the smallest players on the pitch to score. This late try brought the score to 10-16 which is how it would end.

Lochaber's win keeps them in third place in the league, now just 12 points adrift of second place. They now have a week off before travelling to league leaders Glasgow University Medics on January 26 for a 2pm kick-off. Venue TBC.

## Five-goal Strathspey defeat Fort

Strathspey Thistle	5
Fort William	1
Highland League	

Strathspey Thistle cruised to a comfortable victory over Highland League strugglers Fort William on Saturday at Seafield Park.

A hat-trick from Ross Naismith and a brace from James Fraser were enough to secure the three points for the Grantown-on-Spey club, which takes them up to 13th in the league, while the Fort remain firmly rooted to the foot of the table.

The home side found themselves 4-0 up just after the half-hour mark and were comfortably dominating proceedings.

The Fort did manage to regroup after the fourth went in and created some chances of their own.

David McGurk's volley sailed over the bar from a close distance before a Sean Grant's effort was blocked



Fort remain rooted to the bottom of the Highland League. Photo: James Baines/Jakob Cizic

just short of the line by the Thistle defence.

After the half-time break, the Fort were able to exert more of an influence on the match with Strathspey goalkeeper Michael McCallum being called into action by Grant early on.

The Fort's breakthrough finally came courtesy of Jordan Morrison, who danced through the Thistle defence

before slipping the ball under the onrushing goalkeeper and into the net.

The visitors' celebrations were cut short, however, after Ryan Henderson conceded a penalty in the 70th minute which was duly dispatched by Naismith to complete his hat-trick.

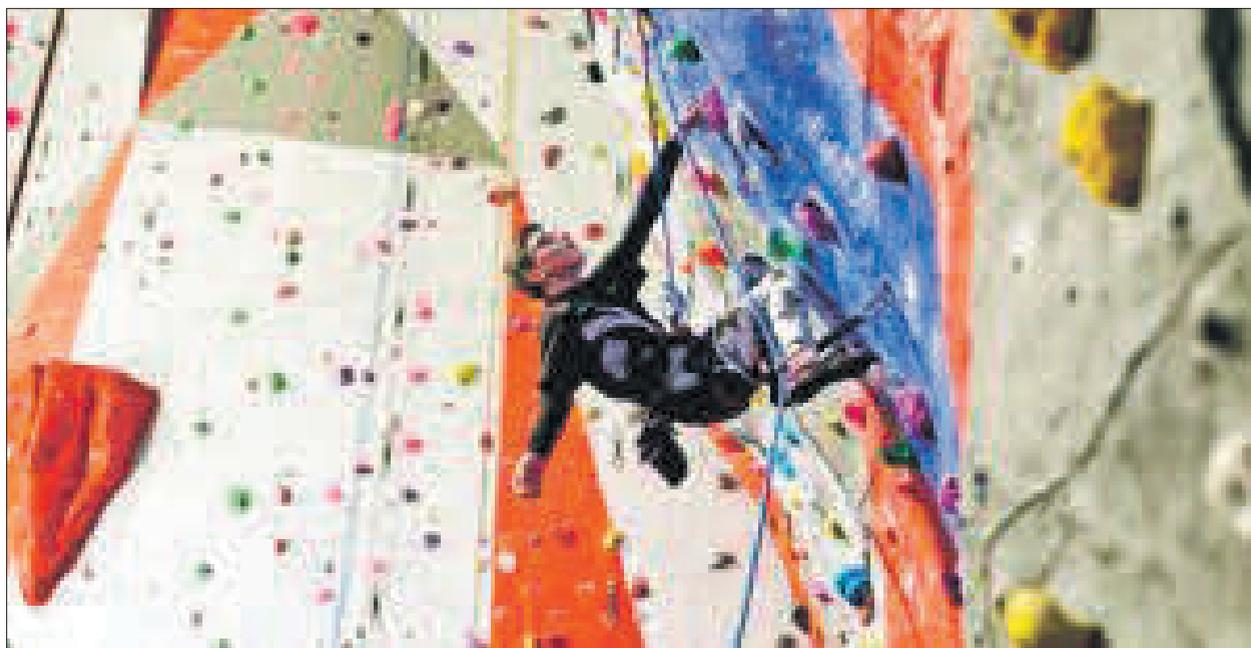
Soon after, the Fort were reduced to 10 men after Sean Grant received his second

## FOOTBALL

yellow of the game.

Fort William never gave up, however, and were pushing for another goal late on as a well-struck free kick from Jordan Morrison was denied by the width of the post.

Fort face a tough test on Saturday when league leaders Glasgow University Medics visit Claggan Park. Kick-off is 3pm.



Archie MacIntyre focuses during one of his competition climbs.

# Corpach climber gets backing for national success

A young Lochaber climber has been given the financial backing to have the chance to fulfil his ambitions of representing his country at an elite level.

Thirteen-year-old Archie MacIntyre, from Corpach, has secured sponsorship from Liberty British Aluminium to assist with expenses as he travels across the country to train and to take part in competitions.

The sponsorship deal comes after a stellar two years for the ambitious young climber which saw him go from ground level to being ranked sixth in Scotland for his age and mixing it with the country's best at the national championships.

Last year, he was crowned the North of Scotland Lead Climbing Champion in his age group and selected for the Scottish youth development squad.

Not content with that, MacIntyre has now set his sights on climbing for Scotland and then the British team, with his end goal to compete in the Olympics.

In seeking to progress and further hone his abilities, Archie has joined a climbing team in Inverness which has a performance coach, as there is nothing similar in Fort William.

This, of course, adds not

only a longer travelling time, but also expense. While his parents have largely financed Archie's climbing ambitions so far, he has been seeking sponsorship as an individual sportsperson.

His call has been met by not only Liberty British Aluminium but a number of other local businesses have supported MacIntyre in the past year, including Corrie Construction, MacKenzie Marine Maintenance, Marine Harvest and Lochaber Engineering and Welding Services.

MacIntyre started climbing almost by chance after looking in to Three Wise Monkeys in Fort William with his mum, Caroline 'just to see what it was'. From then on this was Archie's regular destination, firstly learning the art of bouldering and undertaking NICAS (National Indoor Climbing Award Scheme) where he was taught to climb and use the roped wall.

After his first taste of competition at Three Wise Monkeys in Fort William, MacIntyre entered the premier youth climbing series in Scotland, the YCS.

After securing two wins in the final two rounds, MacIntyre was confirmed as the north of Scotland champion for his age group, mean-

ing that he was automatically selected for the Scottish YCS development squad.

Recognising his obvious natural talent, he was entered into the final at Ratho in an attempt to get into the

## CLIMBING

Scotland squad. He did not get into the top three for a place, but is now qualified to enter the Scotland Youth Development Squad.



Young climber Archie MacIntyre received sponsorship from Liberty British Aluminium to assist with expenses as he travels across the country for training and to take part in competitions. He met with Rosie Flannigan, left, and Kerry MacDonald at the smelter to pass on his thanks.

Photo: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.



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## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
2°C to 6°C.

**Friday**  
Light cloud and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures  
2°C to 5°C.

### Weekend Outlook

**Saturday**  
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze

**Sunday**  
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
3°C to 6°C.



**FRIDAY**

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday January 17, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	01.56	3.1	08.04	1.7
	15.00	3.4	20.48	1.6
<b>Fri</b>	03.08	3.3	09.16	1.5
	15.53	3.6	21.44	1.3
<b>Sat</b>	04.01	3.6	10.19	1.2
	16.39	3.8	22.35	1.0
<b>Sun</b>	04.48	3.8	11.14	1.0
	17.22	4.0	23.23	0.7
<b>Mon</b>	05.33	4.0	12.04	0.7
	18.04	4.0	** ** *	**
<b>Tues</b>	00.10	0.5	06.16	4.2
	12.52	0.6	18.45	4.1
<b>Wed</b>	00.56	0.4	06.59	4.2
	13.38	0.6	19.27	4.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**



**INSIDE THIS WEEK:**  
Corpach climber  
gets backing for  
national success

**NORTH WEST  
MARINE**  
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OBAN TIMES WEATHER  
AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 55

# Boxers primed for action ahead of national champs

## Phoenix Boxing Club have high hopes for these youngsters

Three young boxers from Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club aim to start the year with a bang as they all hope to feature in championship bouts in the next couple of months.

Nine-year-old Josh Hunter has shown tremendous promise in training and a handful of cub bouts (where no winner is declared) but now takes his first foray into competitive action when he boxes in Glasgow tomorrow Friday against a Glaswegian opponent.

This is a perfect start to the year for Hunter as he will enter his first Northern District Championships followed by the full Scottish Championships, both next month.

Employing a boxing style that is very easy on the eye, the Lochaber club are hopeful Hunter can make a big impression in the sport nationally.

Hunter's namesake and fellow Lochaber boxer, Josh Dieguno, 12, is also in great form ahead of series of important bouts.

Since becoming Scottish champion last year, Dieguno has moved into an older age group as he enters the Scottish Intermediate Championships next weekend.

Being the youngest in his

new age category, he has a steep challenge in front of him as he is scheduled to face last year's GB silver medallist.

Working behind a strong jab with slick footwork, Josh is keen to keep his improvement going and, together with a strong ethic, he is hopeful he can achieve continued success.

This championship is swiftly followed by the Northern District Championships and then the Scottish Open Championships where he will attempt to win the Scottish Championships for the second successive year.

Josh's brother, Jack Dieguno, 15, is also now champing at the bit to get into action and will enter the Scottish Northern District Novice Championships next month, if not in action before.

Tall for his weight, Jack has worked extremely hard in the gym and has started to develop a relaxed style which should stand him in good stead for the start of his boxing career.

**Left to right are Josh Dieguno, Jack Dieguno and Josh Hunter, who are all gearing up for national and regional championship bouts in the coming months.**

Photo: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



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